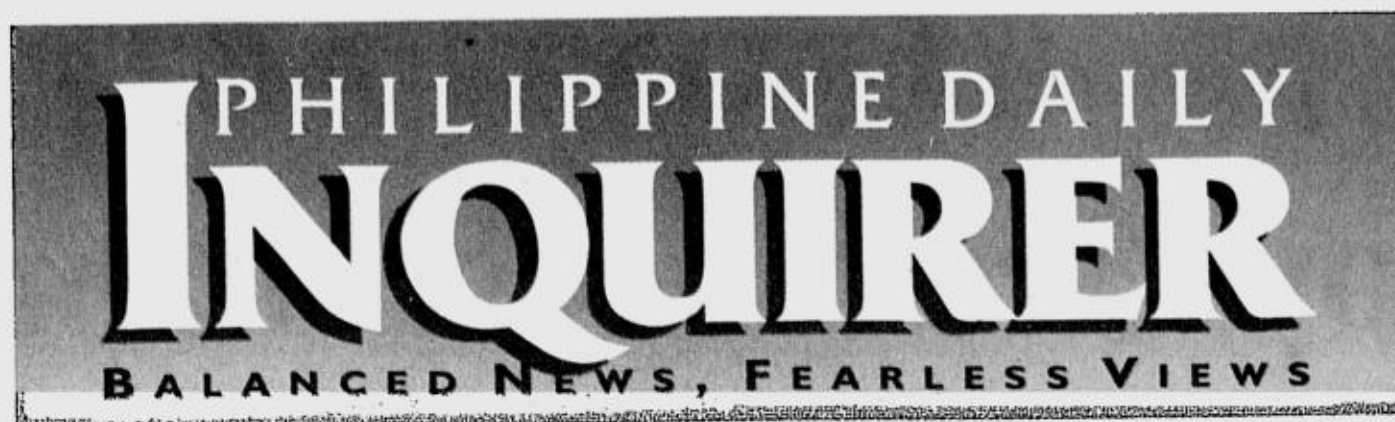


WHAT'S INSIDE

- Robbers hit MRT
METRO/A18
- Treasury bill rates
start inching up
BUSINESS/B1
- Bank exec facing raps
allowed to leave RP
NEWS/A7



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Tuesday, September 30, 2003 ★★ 46 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 294

P15

website: www.inq7.net

Bush security team riles House members

By Carlito Pablo and Cynthia Balana

THEY didn't want coffee, they wanted the entire coffee shop. Americans in charge of security arrangements for US President George W. BUSH/A8



KRIS Aquino, accompanied by her mother, former President Corazon Aquino, swears to the criminal charges she filed yesterday against her ex-lover, Parañaque City Mayor Joey Marquez, before a Pasig City prosecutor.

JOAN BONDOL

Kris files charges; Joey 'in shock'

By Luige del Puerto, Nini Valera, Philip C. Tubeza and Louie C. Camino

JOEY Marquez is "in shock."

Sources close to the Parañaque mayor said he has been out of touch since former lover Kris Aquino filed charges of "grave threat, illegal possession of firearms, grave coercion and less serious physical injuries" against him yesterday.

It was the latest episode in the real-life soap opera that has riveted the nation since last week, when the brickbats started flying from both sides.

Marquez's secretary Ailene

Romea said the mayor reported for work at the Parañaque City Hall at 7:30 a.m., but left at about 2:30 p.m. for an undisclosed destination.

The sources said Marquez was aware the situation could be "explosive," and he "doesn't know what to do."

Kris looked distraught but determined when she appeared before the Rizal Prosecutor's Office (RPPPO) in Pasig at about 1:30 p.m. yesterday. She was accompanied by her mother, former President Corazon C. Aquino, her brother, Tarlac Rep. Noynoy Aquino, sister

KRIS/A4

DPWH secretary faces contempt rap

By Armand N. Nocum

PUBLIC Works Secretary Florante Sorioquez may be cited for contempt for his failure to implement the suspension orders issued by the Office of the Ombudsman against Public Works Undersecretary Salvador Pleyto and Director Romeo Panganiban. Pleyto and Panganiban are facing graft charges for their alleged unexplained wealth.

"If the order is not implement-

ed, he can be held accountable and face sanctions for his failure to obey the directive of the Ombudsman," Ernesto Nocos, spokesperson of the Office of the Ombudsman, said yesterday.

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo imposed a six-month suspension without pay on Panganiban and Pleyto last week.

Nocos said the suspension orders required Sorioquez to imple-

DPWH/A5

Jailed forest guard returns home a hero

By Norman Bordadora

A FOREST ranger who was wrongfully convicted of the killing of a mayor in Agusan del Sur 13 years ago received a shower of praises and job benefits when he returned yesterday to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Raul Zapatos was accorded a hero's welcome more than a week after the Supreme Court released him from the New Bilibid Prisons where he was serving a life sentence imposed by a lower court in 2001 for murder and frustrated murder.

"Working with people like Zapatos, who are willing to give up everything for the environment, makes it all worthwhile. The department is truly grateful for his

JAILED/A5



FILIPINO SOLDIER IN BABYLON

A Filipino peacekeeper stands guard at the walls of the ancient city of Babylon, some 100 km south of Baghdad, on Sunday. He is part of a 96-member Philippine contingent which flew to the Middle East on Aug. 21.

AFP PHOTO

DOH notes rise in sex diseases

Dayrit: AIDS epidemic not far behind

By Jerome Aning

HEALTH Secretary Manuel Dayrit yesterday expressed deep concern about the possibility of an AIDS epidemic in the Philippines, citing reports of increasing sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among Filipinos.

"Most of these STIs are transmitted in the same manner as the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the infectious agent that causes AIDS, so where there is an epidemic of STIs, AIDS cannot be far behind," Dayrit said at a news briefing.

The only way to address the STI problem, he said, was to avoid "risky" sex and to use protection such as condoms.

Dayrit, who attended a UN special session on HIV/AIDS/STIs in New York last week, said Filipinos risked contracting STIs in one out of three contacts with sex workers.

The increase in risky behavior is evidenced by the reported rise in sexual promiscuity among Filipinos, with more young adults engaging in pre-marital sex and having multiple partners, he added.

The secretary also reported continuing increases in the number of specific STI cases, such as chlamydia, up by 21 to 36 percent; gonorrhea, 15-31 percent; syphilis, 1-7 percent; and HIV/AIDS, one percent.

Dayrit said the high rate of chlamydia infection—in the news recently because of the Kris Aquino-Joey Marquez controversy—was particularly alarming because it is spread the same way as HIV.

"This is a warning sign that HIV can, likewise, be spread throughout the population, unless the public takes the necessary measures to prevent it," Dayrit said.

The Department of Health does not have exact and updated data on STIs. But in 2001, Dayrit

DOH/A4



PRESIDENT Macapagal thanks Unesco for recognizing the cultural value of Edsa I People Power when unarmed Filipinos overthrew the Marcos regime.

PCPO-MALACANANG

Edsa now world heritage site; Gloria back in Manila today

By Volt Contreras and Juliet Javellana in Manila

PARIS (via PLDT)—People Power is now part of the world's cultural heritage.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday thanked the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for recognizing the cultural value of Edsa I, when unarmed Filipinos overthrew the oppressive Marcos dictatorship.

President Macapagal-Arroyo

said Unesco has included radio broadcasts of the February 1986 People Power Revolution as part of the world's cultural heritage register.

For this, the President who was herself catapulted to power by a similar popular uprising in January 2001, thanked the Unesco during the organization's 32nd General Conference at its headquarters in the French capital.

"These broadcasts," she said, "demonstrate that the great part of cultural heritage is intangible

in nature—music, dance, oral poetry, and even historic radio broadcasts."

It was not immediately known which radio broadcasts were compiled and used by Unesco. But presumably these would include those made by then Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and the underground transmissions of Radio Bandido, which served to unite millions of Filipinos during the four-day vigil on Edsa.

Ms Macapagal returns this

EDSA/A8

GMA 7: Probe Team show is still with us

By Alcuin Papa and Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE SHOW is still with us.

This was the response of television giant GMA 7 to reports that rival ABS-CBN was interested in the award-winning magazine show "The Probe Team."

The statement was issued after GMA 7 sent feelers that it wanted to ax the show after 16 years over an episode featuring a lifestyle check on Efraim Genuino, chair of the state-owned Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

GMA 7 president Felipe Gozon said the show could only be canceled when the two parties "have a date to do so."

The contract between GMA 7 and the group of Che-Che Lazaro, producer of the show, is set to expire in January 2004.

The Probe Team is a co-production between GMA 7 and Che-

Che Lazaro's group.

"A co-production agreement with two groups is like a partnership. It is based on mutual trust and confidence," Gozon said. "When the standards are different, this will affect the image of the two and it is no longer advisable or desirable to continue."

Lazaro flew out of the country a few hours after GMA 7 vice president Marissa Flores met with her at Lazaro's home in Forbes Park, Makati, on Friday night.

During the meeting, Flores and GMA 7 project unit manager Ricky Escudero asked Lazaro when she would air the last episode of the show.

Butch Raquel, GMA 7 chief for corporate communications, yesterday said nothing had been finalized. "We can't speculate on that (transfer to ABS-CBN) if it's

GMA 7/A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/30/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Holbe/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Bugala	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laosag	Partly Cloudy	Taoloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Lagayon	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

UN: Pinoys 3rd biggest shabu users

By Nelson F. Flores

FILIPINOS are among the world's biggest users of amphetamine-type stimulants like shabu, according to a United Nations study.

The Philippines was ranked third in terms of ATS consumption based on a global survey conducted by the UN's Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on the use of ecstasy and amphetamines in 52 countries.

The UN study showed Thailand as the biggest ATS user, followed by Australia and the Philippines. Other top ATS users are Ireland, Japan, Britain, Estonia, Poland, Spain, Nigeria, the United States, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Belgium, Canada and the Netherlands.

The UNODC estimates the ATS business value at about \$65 billion a year, with profit rates ranging between 3000 to 4000 percent.

In the Philippines, illegal drugs have become a P216 to P432 billion industry.

Determination

Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. said it will take a determined effort by the government to crush the multi-billion drug trade.

Based on a 1999 survey, there are at least 1.8 million regular drug users in the country who consumed an average of five to 10 grams of shabu monthly. A gram of shabu costs about P2,000.

"So if one consumes five grams a month that would cost the user P10,000 a month or P120,000 a year and multiply that figure by 1.8 million users and you will arrive at a staggering conservative amount of P216 billion," Lina explained.

He added that "this amount is a drain to our economy and a blessing for drug lords, their conspirators and a fertile ground for the creeping narco-politics."

The numbers

Records showed that from January to March 2003 alone, the DILG, through the Philippine National Police, conducted 4,269 drug buy-bust operations which resulted in the arrest of 4,843 persons and the confiscation of drugs valued at P274.09 million.

The Philippine Drug Enforce-

ment Agency reported that there are 3.4 million regular and part-time drug users in the country, up from only 20,000 in 1970. About 13 transnational drug rings and 175 local drug syndicates operate in the Philippines where there are some 45,000 drug pushers.

Mandatory tests

As this developed, the Partido ng Manggagawa yesterday warned that mandatory drug testing for workers might be abused and used to destroy labor unions.

The Department of Labor and Employment had issued guidelines directing private firms to formulate company policies and programs to achieve a drug-free workplace.

In a statement, Partido ng Manggagawa Rep. Renato Magtubo said that workers would not object to the tests as long as there are "democratic processes such as consultations with unions and worker representatives" in the drafting of company policies against drug use in the workplace.

"Close consultation and coordination with workers in the drafting of drug-testing policies would ensure that the campaign against illegal drugs is not used as a pretext for union-busting and other forms of unfair labor practice," he said.

Alarming

The UN report also showed an alarming increase in production, trafficking and abuse of synthetic drugs worldwide:

- Over the last decade, the seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) have risen tenfold from about 4 tons in 1990/91 to almost 40 tons in 2000/01;
- Estimated production has reached more than 500 tons a year;
- Abuse is spreading at an alarming rate, with more than 40

million people having used them over the past 12 months.

"ATS are emerging as a 'public enemy number one' among illicit drugs. Neglected by societies as an almost acceptable feature of the 'let's-have-fun' culture in clubs and dance settings, synthetic drug abuse begins with experimental use among mostly young people. Gradually, it may lead to dangerous polydrug use and addiction, with severe health consequences," Antonio Maria Costa, executive director of the UNODC, said.

"Health hazards are major and cumulative. Amphetamines may cause dependence and psychoses. Ecstasy may speed up the normal aging process, leading to Alzheimer-type symptoms. Who will assist, and pay for, a generation of abusers under-performing in schools and at work because of the impact of abuse?" Costa asked.

Results of the UN survey also showed an alarming increase in the number and size of manufacturing sites, in more and more countries.

Small labs

While law enforcement agencies have dismantled a record number of "kitchen labs," the UN said there are still sophisticated clandestine operations with 100-kg capacities per week, an equivalent to a million Ecstasy pills, or four percent of the estimated global weekly demand.

In 2001, close to 8,000 methamphetamine laboratories were raided, mostly in the United States. The number of Ecstasy laboratory seizures rose more than six-fold over the 1991-2001 period.

The UN study warned that ATS abuse is spreading in geographical, age and income terms.

In the past 12 months, the UN said, 34 million people worldwide have abused amphetamine and methamphetamine while 8 million abused Ecstasy. This exceeds the number of cocaine and heroin abusers combined. Abuse is highest in East and South East Asia, followed by Europe, Australia and the United States. With a report by Martin P. Marfil



'WHEN IN ROME...'

President Macapagal-Arroyo visits with Filipino nuns and priests at the Pontificio Collegio Filipino in Rome during her recent sojourn to the Vatican to see Pope John Paul II. The President was also scheduled to meet with members of the Filipino community in Rome but this was cancelled in light of the massive blackout that hit Italy while she was there.

PCFO-MALACANANG

Vatican says GMOs not sinful — GMA

USE of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), including seeds, will get a boost in the Philippines following a Vatican explanation that they are not sinful, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

The President said this was clarified to her in a talk with Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano after her audience with Pope John Paul II over the weekend.

In a statement in Rome which

was released in Manila, Ms Macapagal said, "We have our policies on GMOs and I think what's important now for opposers is that the Vatican said that GMOs are not immoral."

She said this explanation would be used in government information campaigns on GMO seeds. The government has approved the use of GMO seeds, but leftist and environmental groups have opposed the propagation of such GMOs, citing Catholic bish-

ops' support for their campaign.

Ms Macapagal said Cardinal Sodano clarified that while the Vatican considers human cloning as immoral, it does not condemn GM agricultural products.

With the issue of morality out of the way, the President said, "we will address the concerns of the opposers by making sure the safety concerns are addressed."

She visited the Vatican as part of a five-day trip to the United States and Europe. AFP

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Military confirms plot to bomb ships

TOP military officials yesterday confirmed the alleged plot of the Abu Sayyaf to bomb passenger ships plying the Mindanao-Manila route, but sought to downplay it, saying it was nothing new.

Narciso Abaya, Armed Forces chief of staff, said the military received intelligence information about the plot of the bandit group linked to the al-Qaida network and alerted the public about it because of its "seriousness."

"(We have) information that they might hit the passenger liner and so we have given them (ports authorities) appropriate warning basically to intensify the guarding system at the ports, including the security inside the liners," he said.

The plot, Abaya further pointed out, was mainly aimed at sowing terror, and had nothing to do

with the Oct. 18 visit of US President George Bush in the country.

The Philippine Ports Authority further heightened its red alert in Mindanao ports over the weekend after Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani issued a threat in a text message to the WG&A, one of the shipping firm plying the Mindanao-Manila route.

The message supposedly read: "Abu Sayyaf Group Advisory: Muslim travelers must avoid all WG&A (Superferry) vessels for they are on our priority Target Hitlist. Pls pass ASG."

The US government has offered a total of \$5 million for the arrest of Janjalani and other key Abu Sayyaf leaders for the kidnapping of American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham and the murder of Guillermo Sobero. TJ Burgonio

NPA: Gov't pushing youth to join rebels

LUCENA CITY—Seething with anger over the brutal execution of four leftist youth leaders in Compostela Valley by suspected government forces, communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal yesterday said the incident would be the Macapagal government's undoing, as it would only teach the youth about the need to join the New People's Army.

Rosal said he was "burning with anger" over the deaths of Lito Doydo, Marjorie Reynoso, Jonathan Benaro and Ramon Regase.

The four victims—youth activists and members of Anakbayan, Anak ng Bayan Youth Party and the Sangguniang Kabataan—were found buried in a shallow grave in Maco, Compostela Valley the day

after they were abducted by armed men believed to be military intelligence operatives.

The chief of the military's Civil Relations Group for Southeastern Mindanao admitted in a report that they had been spying on activists to ensure that they were not "misbehaving."

Rosal said the Macapagal administration has vented its ire particularly on young people who have been "joining the NPA in numbers."

But Rosal said the approach has backfired as more and more youth join the revolutionary movement and the NPA "in areas where the US-Arroyo regime's all-out terrorism has wrought intense militarization." Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; AP

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Supreme Court orders bar re-exam canceled

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court yesterday ruled that a re-examination on Mercantile Law by this year's crop of bar examinees be canceled.

Instead, the court ordered that the 15 percent weight given to the subject in the bar exams be distributed among the seven other test subjects.

In a four-page resolution, the SC also ordered the creation of a committee—to be composed of three retired SC justices—to conduct a "thorough investigation" into the leakage of Mercantile Law questions which led to the decision to have the examinees retake the test.

The high court gave the committee up to Dec. 15 to submit its report and recommendations.

It also ordered the bar examinees to turn over their exam permits to the Office of the Bar Confidant within the week.

The high tribunal reversed its first decision to hold another exam on Mercantile Law on Saturday after receiving several appeals from the Philippine As-

sociation of Law Schools, Bantay Katarungan, lawyers and from the examinees themselves.

The appeals expressed strong reservations about holding another exam for various reasons.

"It cannot be denied that there are thousands of bar examinees who come from the Visayas and Mindanao and other far-flung areas. These examinees were prepared physically, emotionally and financially to stay in (Manila) for only four weeks," read the motion for reconsideration of the Philippine Association of Law Schools which was filed yesterday.

It was signed by the association's chair Dean Romulo Borja of Xavier University, Dean Andres Bautista of the Far Eastern University, PALS president; Dean Mariano Magsalin of Arellano University, secretary general, and Dean Antonio Abad of Adamson University, past president.

"To extend the examinations another week will not only drain the examinees physically but will cause them undue financial hardship," they said.

"The leakage in Mercantile Law, in all

probability, could have benefited only a few bar examinees, considering that only a few schools were perceived to have been in possession of the leaked bar examination questions," they added.

On Sept. 23, the Supreme Court ordered another exam on Mercantile Law be held this Saturday at De La Salle University at 8 p.m.

A total of 5,455 law graduates took the 2003 bar exams, which started on Sept. 7 at La Salle and continued for three consecutive Sundays until Sept. 28.

The law deans noted that in 1962, the Supreme Court nullified the international law exam due to a leakage. The Court then ordered no retake but decided to add five percent to the grades of the examinees.

"Since it is too much to expect the SC to follow the above precedent and add 15 percent to the grades of all the bar examinees, it is recommended that the 15 percent weight of Mercantile Law be distributed proportionately to all the seven remaining subjects of the bar," the deans said.

Davide faces impeachment anew

NAGA CITY—It's not over yet for the highest magistrate of the land.

After the dismissal of an earlier impeachment complaint against him and seven other Supreme Court justices, another complaint will be filed against Chief Justice Hilario Davide, said Rep. Felix William Fuentebella.

Fuentebella, one of the signatories to the previous impeachment complaint, said the new complaint against Davide will be for technical malversation.

He accused Davide of using part of the Judicial Development Fund (JDF)

for the construction of mansions and cottages in Baguio City for the magistrates, which he claimed were unauthorized expenditures.

"We (in the House) are preparing the new impeachment complaint. It would become part of the dispositive portion of our move to work on the complaints of (court) employees," Fuentebella told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Fuentebella, House assistant majority floor leader, said their investigation began when court employees started complaining of low bonuses when

court collections were actually high.

"What we (congressmen) only did was to ask for documents on how much was collected for the JDF and how much was given to the employees, and if it was in accordance with the law (Presidential Decree No. 1949) that created it.

"It turned out that Chief Justice Davide, in his three-year watch over the Supreme Court, may utang na ng P527-million sa mga empleyado (had amassed a P527-million debt to the employees)," he said. Alan Pelayo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Lawyers group files raps against Lacson in Senate

By Christine O. Avendano

A GROUP of lawyers yesterday asked the Senate to take disciplinary action against opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson for what it called unsubstantiated accusations against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

The group—Filipino Lawyers for Good Governance, or FilGood—asked the Senate ethics committee to either expel or suspend Lacson "for his violation of laws and conduct unbecoming of a member of the Honorable Senate."

FilGood accused Lacson of "political terrorism" and said the country was the casualty of the senator's "clear abuse of parliamentary immunity."

It was the second time that a complaint before the ethics committee was filed against Lacson this month, following his two privilege speeches on the Jose Pidal controversy.

Officials of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office also filed a complaint against Lacson for alleging that the government agency donated over P1 million to one of the bank accounts of Arroyo under the name of Jose Pidal.

"The two exposés of Senator Lacson are meant not only to damage the First Gentleman and the President but the Filipinos and the nation as a whole," lawyer Ric Abcede, FilGood national chair and spokesperson, said at a news conference at the Senate.

Abcede filed the complaint before the of-

fice of ethics committee chair Sen. Francis Pangilinan.

He said he was leaving it up to the committee to take action, as he conceded that Senate officials have already said that the Senate inquiry being conducted on Lacson's allegations take precedence.

In the 12-page complaint, the group said that Lacson fabricated and falsified documents in his two exposés against Arroyo.

Lacson, FilGood contended, committed falsification of documents in violation of Article 172 of the Revised Penal Code and incriminated innocent persons under Article 363 of the Revised Penal Code.

The group said this was because the banks that Lacson had earlier identified as hosting Arroyo's alleged Pidal accounts have already denied the existence of such accounts.

The group forwarded the certifications made by the BPI Family Bank, Union Bank, Philam Savings Bank, Banco de Oro, Banco Filipino, Allied Banking Corp. and Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. to deny the existence of the bank accounts that Lacson had claimed Arroyo owned.

"Indeed, Sen. Lacson is falsely making it appear, through the fabricated documents, that institutions and persons, both public officials and private citizens, have participated in any act or proceeding when in truth, and in fact, they did not so participate."

Maceda doesn't speak for NPC, say members

By Carlito Pablo and Michael L. Ubac

TWO senior leaders of the Nationalist People's Coalition yesterday chided former Sen. Ernesto Maceda, the president emeritus of NPC, for making statements which have placed the party in a "very compromising situation."

The NPC leaders, who requested anonymity, said Maceda was not authorized to speak in behalf of the party founded by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., one of the potential presidential candidates in next year's elections.

"The NPC is treading cautiously on political ground and we can only scratch our heads when we hear Manong Ernie speak," one NPC leader said.

The NPC source was referring to Maceda's statement last week that he was 98 percent sure that Cojuangco will run for president although the latter still had to make decision.

Maceda also said that if movie action king Fernando Poe Jr. decides to run, the actor may get the endorsement of Cojuangco's NPC if the tycoon decides to withdraw

from the presidential race.

The former senator added that Cojuangco may also draft Poe as his running mate.

"Maceda's opinions are his own and do not reflect the NPC line," the NPC source said.

Another NPC source stressed that Maceda's title as president emeritus of the party is "not a formal position." "It is unfortunate that people assume that what Maceda says is the official position of NPC," the second NPC source said.

Maceda yesterday admitted that he was not the official spokesperson of the NPC, but stressed that his pronouncements carried weight as "the president emeritus of NPC," the second largest political party next to the ruling Lakas-CMD.

He likened himself to former President Fidel Ramos, chair emeritus of Lakas, whose comments on political issues have persuasive influence on members of the ruling party.

"Like FVR, I say my views for the party to consider," said Maceda, adding that they reflected the prevailing sentiments of key NPC leaders.

Nothing to explain—Guingona

VICE President Teofisto Guingona yesterday remained unapologetic on his statement that Lakas would top any offer by other parties seeking to dissolve the Nationalist People's Coalition's partnership with the ruling Lakas party.

Guingona, president of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats said he has nothing to explain to Jose Rufino, the party's executive director and presidential liaison officer on political affairs.

"I don't have to explain to him," Guingona said in a news conference.

Rufino, who has been critical of Guingona, said some party members frowned on the Vice President statement saying "it doesn't sound good." G. Lacuarta

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• Chlamydia is caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*. One can get it during oral, vaginal or anal sexual contact with an infected partner. It can cause serious problems in men and women as well as in newborn babies of infected mothers.

Chlamydial infection does not make most people sick, and one can have it and not know it. Those who do have symptoms may have an abnormal discharge from the vagina or penis or pain while urinating. Symptoms usually appear within one to three weeks after being infected. The infection may move inside the body if it is not treated.

• Gonorrhea is caused by the bacterium *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. These bacteria can infect the genital tract, the mouth and the rectum. In women, the opening to the uterus, the cervix, is the first place of infection. The infection, however, can spread to the uterus and fallopian tubes, resulting in pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). PID can cause infertility in as many as 10 percent of infected women. It can also cause tubal (ectopic) pregnancy.

• Trichomonas vaginalis is a microscopic parasite found worldwide. Infection with this parasite is called trichomoniasis, one of the most common STDs mainly affecting women aged 16 to 35. Infection is more common in women who have had

multiple sexual partners.

• Syphilis is a complex STD caused by the bacterium *Treponema pallidum*. It has often been called "the great imitator" because many of its signs and symptoms are indistinguishable from those of other diseases.

Syphilis is passed from person to person through direct contact with a syphilis sore. Sores occur mainly on the external genitals, vagina, or in the rectum. Sores also can occur on the lips and in the mouth. Transmission of the organism occurs during vaginal, anal or oral sex.

Pregnant women with the disease can pass it to the babies they are carrying.

• Bacterial vaginosis is a mild infection in the vagina caused by a certain type of bacteria. The vagina normally contains a lot of "good" bacteria and a few other types of bacteria called anaerobes. Too many anaerobes can cause bacterial vaginosis. A woman may notice vaginal discharge. It may have a fishy smell, especially after one has intercourse. Some women have bacterial vaginosis without experiencing any symptoms.

Sources: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, US National Institutes of Health and Division of Parasitic Diseases, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

DOH notes rise in sex diseases

From page A1

said, the number of chlamydia cases were anywhere from a low of 2.2 million to a high of 3.1 million. Gonorrhea and syphilis were estimated to have about 482,000 and 80,000 cases.

The secretary warned that having only one regular sex partner was not an assurance that a person would not get STIs. If that partner has had several partners, he said, having sex with him or her is tantamount to being exposed to the infectious pathogens of all those partners.

Dayrit said most STIs in women were "asymptomatic," meaning they do not exhibit symptoms.

But in men, STIs come in the

form of urethritis or the inflammation of the urine tube.

He said that while most STIs are curable, they could lead to infertility, ectopic pregnancies and pelvic inflammatory diseases.

Dayrit said the country's surveillance system for HIV/AIDS continued to report "low and slow prevalence" of the dreaded disease.

But he added that the "necessary elements of AIDS infection are, more than ever, present in the Philippines."

The DOH's National Epidemiology Center reported that for the month of August, 15 new HIV cases were reported, bringing to 91 the total number of registered HIV/AIDS patients this year and to 1,921 cases since 1984. Of the

total number of patients, 255 have died due to AIDS-related complications.

Dayrit said there were an estimated 6,000 to 10,000 unreported HIV/AIDS cases in the country.

Coconut oil

On the positive side, the health secretary announced "some success" in the first phase of tests on the use of coconut oil in the possible treatment of HIV/AIDS.

He said HIV/AIDS patients who were given coconut oil extracts reported recovery in their CD4 levels.

CD4s are types of white blood cells that are destroyed during HIV/AIDS infection. The normal CD4 level is 500-1,500. Most

HIV/AIDS patients have levels of 200 and below.

Monolaurine, a chemical present in coconut oil, "did not worsen" the CD4 levels in HIV/AIDS patients, Dayrit said. But he added that the tests needed to administered to thousands of patients.

"We still need a longer monitoring period to get more funding over before embarking on the second and third phases of the testing over the next six months. But the initial results do show a promise of a cheaper way to treat AIDS," he added.

The tests are being spearheaded by the Philippine Coconut Authority with the help of laboratories in Maryland and Massachusetts.

Kris files charges; Joey 'in shock'

From page A1

Ballsy Cruz, and lawyer Rene Saguisag.

The 32-year-old actress and television game show host was assisted by her counsels Sigfrid and Raymond Fortun in filing the charges against Marquez, 42, who is also a comedian and TV personality.

Saguisag said the former President was present only to give her daughter moral support. Noynoy, whom Kris ran to after the alleged beating, is set to testify against Marquez.

When asked if the filing of the charges meant the Aquinos had closed all avenues for compromise, Sigfrid Fortun said this seemed to be the situation at the moment. But he did not rule out the possibility that the family would later decide to settle out of court.

"They are Christians and practicing Catholics," Fortun explained. "My personal opinion is that they would do what is appropriate under the circumstances. I will not totally discount the possibility of anything further happening after this case is actually investigated."

He said the Aquinos could have filed "more serious" charges, but Kris "would have none of it." He said the items on the charge sheets were exactly what Kris wanted.

"She wants to set things right, and to make sure that the respondent is put to task for what actually transpired," Fortun said. At one point, he recalled, he had suggested putting "additional matters" into the affidavit, but "Kris said no."

In a television interview last week, Kris alleged that during an argument over Marquez's infidelity, he

hurt her and pointed a loaded gun at her. She said she feared for her life and refused a reconciliation because "next time, it would be easy for him to pull the trigger."

Fortun said charges of illegal possession of firearms were also filed after it was established that the .9mm caliber pistol allegedly poked at Kris was unlicensed, and Marquez had no permit to carry it.

He said administrative charges against Marquez would be filed in the Department of Interior and Local Government today.

As expected, yesterday's filing of charges with the RPO became a media event. Hordes of fans waited outside the building. Onlookers, including government employees, lined a corridor and a stairway, taking snapshots of the actress with camera-equipped cell phones and yelling her name.

At the door of Assistant Prosecutor Mariam Bien's office, a table was set up for foreign and local journalists covering the proceedings.

The Aquinos were whisked away seconds after Kris swore in. Bien was cornered by photographers and reporters but she refused to answer questions, and instead directed them to the lead counsel.

Date for the preliminary investigation was not set.

Marquez's secretary said the mayor "probably" went to consult with his lawyers when he suddenly left the office. But she did not know who the lawyers were. "As of Sunday," Romea said, "the mayor still had no lawyer."

Former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez said Marquez was eyeing former Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

Chavez is representing Marquez in his annulment case against actress Alma Moreno. Last week, he declined to be lead counsel for his client in the squabble against Kris, citing ties with the former President. He was solicitor general during the Aquino administration.

"I heard he wants Miriam Defensor-Santiago," Chavez told media men yesterday when asked during a press conference who was going to defend Marquez.

Noting the reporters' reaction, he said, "I don't know what you are giggling about." But he himself was smiling.

Santiago, who arrived yesterday from a weekend in Hong Kong, declined to comment on Chavez's disclosure.

Whether or not Santiago does not take on the case, Chavez said, the Kris-Joey real-life soap opera would continue for quite a while, possibly with more sordid and scandalous details forthcoming.

He said he refused to represent Marquez because he would have to use "rather ugly details" for the defense. This would definitely hurt the former President, he said. "I don't want that to happen."

Chavez noted that Marquez would still be able to run for public office even if he were convicted by a regional trial court on the charge of less serious physical injury.

He said public officials were disqualified from running for public office only when convicted of crimes involving "moral turpitude" like estafa, robbery, or dereliction of duty.

"Even if he is convicted between now and election time next year, he can still run. What is required is judgment by final conviction," he said, foreseeing that the case would go up to the Court of Appeals or even the Supreme Court.

Insisting that Marquez was "remorseful," the lawyer said his first advice to Marquez was to

"reach out" to Aquino. "Basically, this is a private problem which only the two of them should, and can, settle."

As of now, he pointed out, there are "too many handlers—not to mention the battle of the networks."

The INQUIRER could not reach Marquez. His cell phone was "out of coverage area." Romea said the mayor, his children, and members of his close-in staff had all "replaced their SIM (subscriber information data) cards."

Not even Douglas Quijano, his talent manager, could tell where Marquez was. In a cell phone conversation with the INQUIRER, Quijano said he only knew that the actor-politician was "huddled with his lawyers..." (but) I'm not aware that he has changed his cell phone number."

The other sources described Marquez as "deeply depressed" and "running scared."

One of them compared the beleaguered mayor to Aquino's former lover, actor Philip Salvador, who was "also very scared after he and Kris broke off."

Shortly after her appearance before the RPO, Kris told the INQUIRER: "I am under strict instructions from my lawyers not to issue any statement today." A few minutes earlier, she said the Aquinos were "praying as a family."

Following the violent fight on Sept. 22 in the Essensa condominium unit that Marquez has been occupying, Kris and her son Joshua (sired by Salvador) moved to the home of her mother on Times Street in Quezon City.

The INQUIRER learned that Kris found out on Friday that Marquez had been opening her cell phone billing statements and "must have been calling" the numbers listed.

Earlier, Kris said Marquez accused her of calling another TV host and comedian, Vic Sotto, who was romantically linked to her in the past. She and Sotto did not talk the whole month of August, Kris insisted. "It was only via a text message that I asked Vic for the number of BMW Libis, where he is a partner," she said.

The actress bought a BMW and allegedly gave it to Marquez. But the latest reports said she had taken the car back.

According to the source, Kris said she had "things in Oakwood" during the July mutiny (because) "Joey had this paranoia about Vic."

Sotto, through Eat Bulaga executive producer Malou Choa Fagar, said on Thursday he would rather not comment on the issue.

Sunday afternoon, reality TV and the local network war continued as a dejected-looking Marquez spoke in an interview with "S-Files" host Richard Gomez on GMA 7. Marquez looked on the verge of tears, as he repeated his blanket denial of Aquino's accusations, including calling Salvador a "bum."

Another source close to Kris said: "Joey's handlers should advise him to keep his mouth shut."

The actress earlier told the INQUIRER, Marquez called her last Thursday from a mutual friend's cell phone. She said he apologized and said he still had feelings for her. She hung up on him.

Chavez also said Marquez was heart-broken that all the unpleasant details of the relationship had been made public. "He stated his love and respect for Kris," the lawyer said.

This and similar declarations through different people have so far failed to move Kris, who could only say: "It makes me sick when Joey says he still loves me." With reports from Jerry Esplanada and AP

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DPWH chief under fire

From page A1

ment them immediately upon receipt. Public Works Assistant Secretary Rafael Yabut earlier said that Soriquez was not delaying the implementation of the suspension orders. He said the orders had not reached the office of Soriquez.

Nocos questioned the undue delay in the delivery of the suspension orders within Metro Manila. He said Soriquez and Yabut could be punished for not being forthright on the matter.

"If they are lying, then the Ombudsman will act accordingly. It will hold these officials liable," Nocos said.

Ironically, Soriquez is himself facing possible suspension for the construction of the P3-billion FVR lahar megadike in Pampanga, which was breached in 1996.

Pleyto and Panganiban failed to pass the lifestyle check being conducted by the Malacañang-based Transparency Group as part of the government's anticorruption drive.

They were charged with graft on Aug. 21 along with Deputy Customs Commissioner Gil Valera, Deputy Collector Jaime Maglipon and

Customs Miscellaneous Chief Flor Aguilar.

The Transparency Group under Assistant Secretary Nick Conti has found Panganiban to have P81.7 million in undeclared real and personal property, but a declared net worth of P12.9 million in 2001.

Panganiban's alleged undeclared assets include a P30-million cockpit in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, a P24.8-million house and lot in Ayala Alabang, and a \$300,000 (P15 million) house and lot in Pasadena, California. He was allegedly able to pay kidnappers a P4.8-million ransom for his release last year.

The Transparency Group and the Lifestyle Check Coalition have charged Pleyto with graft for his P16.6 million worth of undeclared property in Sta. Maria, Bulacan. His assets were found to be "disproportionate" to his lawful income. Pleyto earns about P346,500 yearly.

Nocos said last week that the assets of Pleyto were "recorded in the name of his wife, Miguela Pleyto, and his children, Russel, Mary Grace and Salvador Pleyto Jr."

Pleyto questioned the suspension order, saying his business records would show that he was able to acquire his assets because of the various businesses he put up 37 years ago.

Jailed forest guard returning home a hero

From page A1

selfless service to the country's environment," said Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun.

Zapatos, who was then leader of a DENR strike force in Agusan del Sur, encountered then Mayor Leonardo Cortez of Bayugan town and his bodyguards on Jan. 14, 1990.

Supreme Court records showed that Cortez and his men repeatedly fired at the DENR checkpoint. Zapatos shot back, killing Cortez and wounding one of his bodyguards, Socrates Platero.

In reversing the lower court's decision, the Supreme Court upheld the forest ranger's contention that he fired his gun in self-defense.

Zapatos immediately surrendered to the Philippine Army upon learning of the mayor's death. He was detained at the National Bureau of Investigation head-

quarters on Taft Avenue, Manila.

He continued to receive his salary and benefits until his conviction on March 27, 2001.

Upon his return to the DENR, Zapatos was promoted to property custodian, which is four salary grades higher than his previous position.

He is expected to receive two and a half years' worth of back wages and benefits as endorsed by the DENR Praise Committee. He will also be given priority treatment for travel opportunities abroad.

Department sources said Gozun had already approved in principle the committee's endorsement.

"Thank you for the support. This makes working for the environment even more meaningful," Zapatos told his superiors and co-employees.

Zapatos and his wife are expected to go back to their hometown in Zamboanga next week.

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Cops tagged in trader's abduction suspended

By Christian Esguerra

THE POLICE colonel and his fellow officer who allegedly kidnapped and extorted money from a businessman in Parañaque City have been suspended.

In a memorandum, police Inspector Gen. Alex Canonizado said the suspension of Supt. Manuel Vidania and PO2 Michael Adrid was meant to keep them from "exerting undue pressure and influence on the witnesses and the case."

Noting that the two officers could not be arrested until warrants were issued, Deputy Director

General Edgar Aglipay yesterday said they would be "confined to barracks" in the meantime.

Vidania, Adrid and seven other men are facing kidnapping charges filed by the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer) team with the Department of Justice.

The group allegedly abducted businessman Rafael Decena on Sept. 19 but released him the following day after his family shelled out P1 million.

The case, Aglipay said, "should serve as a lesson to other policemen, particularly those involved in anti-drug operations."

Decena, Aglipay said, was suspected of involvement in passport fraud and illegal drugs, which was why Vidania and his men arrested him.

But a civilian suspect in the case, Juanito Hipe, said he saw a blindfolded Decena in the office of Vidania with the latter negotiating a ransom for the businessman's release.

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Bank exec facing raps allowed to leave RP

By Philip C. Tubeza and Elena R. Torrijos

A TOP official of Standard Chartered Bank involved in an estafa case was able to leave the country yesterday despite a hold-departure order (HDO) against him after a ranking Department of Justice official interceded in his behalf.

Former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez said DOJ Undersecretary Ma. Mercedes Gutierrez called up immigration officials at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and told them to allow Sridhar Raman, chief finance officer of SCB-Philippines, to board his plane.

Chavez said he would file criminal charges against Gutierrez, "and all officials who conspired with her," before the Ombudsman.

Gutierrez yesterday admitted that she had asked Raman to be allowed to leave but stressed that this was done with the knowledge and approval of Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong, who is attending a conference in Vienna, Austria.

"I am ready to face any charges that may be filed against me and I stand by my order," said Gutierrez, who is the acting justice secretary.

But a Stanchart spokesperson said that Raman left for Singapore yesterday to attend an international conference and would be back on Thursday.

In a statement, Stanchart said foreign travel was a regular activity within the bank. All officials were required to travel because of their roles and responsibilities, but they always returned to Manila, where they are based.

"The hold-departure order filed against some Standard Chartered officials is highly irregular and violates the Supreme Court circular on the issuance of hold-departure orders. Steps have already been taken to lift this order," said Reynaldo Geronimo, external legal counsel of Stanchart's Philippine branch.

On Friday, Datumanong issued hold-departure orders against Raman, an Indian national; SCB-Philippines chief executive officer Paul Simon Morris, a British national; Indian Ajay Kanwal, head of consumer banking, and three other top SCB officials who are Filipinos.

The HDOs were issued after Chavez filed before the DOJ syndicated estafa charges against them, and 21 other SCB officials based abroad, for selling foreign securities

without the approval of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Syndicated estafa is punishable by death and is non-bailable. Other criminal, administrative and labor complaints against the respondents have also been filed before the SEC, BSP, the Anti-Money Laundering Council, the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the National Labor Relations Commission.

Standard Chartered allegedly defrauded various company retirement funds, retirees, and one of its senior officers, Manuel V. Baviera, Chavez's client.

Baviera was recently terminated by the bank and is facing charges of perjury and blackmail filed by the bank with the DOJ.

According to Chavez, NAI supervisor Fernando Aquino and immigration officer Arlyn Racho told him Gutierrez called them up and told them to allow Raman to board his flight.

Raman had reportedly tried to leave on Sunday but he was stopped by immigration agents. Yesterday, he checked in at 6:48 a.m. and left for Singapore at around 8:15 a.m.

"The moment these foreigners leave this

country, what recourse do we have against them? That's the problem. He knows he is being charged here with a very serious offense, which is not subject to bail, why would he still come back," Chavez said.

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Release of Indon bomber sought

JAKARTA—Indonesian lawyers demanded Monday that a court void the indictment of a man accused of bombing the home of the Philippine ambassador and two churches in this city three years ago.

Prosecutors said last week that Abdul Jabar had been proven guilty of a role in the car-bomb attack outside the home of then Philippine Ambassador Leonides Caday on Aug. 1, 2000 that killed two people and injured 21 others, including the envoy.

But the indictment did not provide clear details of the charges against Jabar, and covered alleged crimes outside the jurisdiction of the court, lawyer Qadhar Faisal told the Central Jakarta court.

"The prosecutor has been unable to prove the entire accusations except by using an imaginative and manipulative pattern with the hope of molding opinions that will corner the defendant," he said.

Prosecutors said the attack was to avenge the deaths of fellow Muslims in the separatist conflict in the southern Philippines.

The attack was a coordinated effort allegedly involving Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, who escaped a Philippine jail in July and is still on the run, and Amrozi, sentenced to death last month for his role in last October's Bali bombings.

Prosecutors said Al-Ghozi himself set off the bomb remotely as the limousine carrying Caday passed through the gates. **AFP**

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Briton skips porn hearing

ANGELES CITY—A British man charged with violating the country's anti-pornography law failed to appear at Monday's preliminary investigation of the case here.

Barry Raymond Edwards was represented by lawyer Aden Sigua even though the suspect could not be found after he was released last week by the city prosecutor who dropped three rape complaints police had filed against Edwards, 58, in July.

A police source said a British consul visited Camp Tomas Pepito here on Monday to verify if Edwards was still being detained.

Sigua said his client, who had claimed he was illegally searched and arrested, had been in detention for two months at the police camp. No hold-departure order was issued against Edwards, a native of Essex in the United Kingdom.

Senior Insp. Erlinda Tullao, chief of the city police's women and children's concern section and the complainant in the pornography case, submitted the initial set of evidence to Assistant City Prosecutor Ruben Hilario, the same fiscal who dismissed the rape complaints for lack of evidence. **Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk**

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Edsa now world heritage site; GMA back today

From page A1

morning from her five-day trip, which included visits to New York and Rome, amid expectations she would soon announce her decision about the 2004 elections.

The President will arrive on a Philippine Airlines flight at 10:30 a.m., Press Secretary Milton Alingod said in Malacañang.

At the Unesco conference, Ms Macapagal also thanked the key UN organization for three other "gestures" that helped enrich Filipiniana: • Unesco's assistance in preserving the Ifugao rice terraces, which she said was "proof of our ancestors' sophistication in the science of upland irrigation."

• Recognition of the Earth-savers Dream Ensemble, composed of disabled Filipinos, as Unesco "artists for peace."

• Assistance in assessing the impact of illegal fishing in the Tubbataha Reef off Palawan.

Ms Macapagal also presented to the body a report on her government's education program, albeit acknowledging its limited resources.

She said the government had been building new schoolhouses and implementing the "two-shift" class schedules to "close the classroom gap" and expand access to distance learning systems in poor, remote villages.

Asserting that she came from a "multi-ethnic society," she said she had been "empowering the Madrasah schools of our Muslim communities to become part of our formal educational system."

She made the report after establishing a connection between poor access to education and the present global concern over sociopolitical unrest and terrorism.

"Exclusion breeds resentment

Mike A not coming home with Gloria

By Volt Contreras

PARIS (via PLDT)—The President returns to the country today, but First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo will be staying behind.

Arroyo told the INQUIRER yesterday that from the French capital, he will proceed to Spain and then to Dubai to address the plight of 23 Filipino

seamen who have been in jail for two years now on estafa charges.

He said he would meet with two Dubai princes on Oct. 4 to see whether funds can be raised to pave the way for the release of the jailed workers.

He said the seamen's legal problems began when they were reportedly duped by an Indian employer.

which in turn makes the excluded easy recruits for those who espouse violent means for their own selfish or radical agenda," she said.

Pope's blessing

One of the highlights of the President's trip was her audience with Pope John Paul II on Saturday at the Vatican, during which she asked for blessings for the country.

She also pushed the government's peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front while boosting her international stock in addressing the United Nations general assembly in New York.

It was her longest trip since facing down the July 27 mutiny. But the President is set to leave again on three foreign trips in October, before and after US President George W. Bush's visit on Oct. 18.

Prior to her departure, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Ms Macapagal was mulling over suggestions for her to run despite her previous decla-

ration and that she was seeking divine guidance for it.

After her meeting with the Pope, the question that's bound to hound Ms Macapagal is: Has she divined God's plan for her in 2004?

Deputy presidential spokesperson Ricardo Saludo begged not to answer the question. In a briefing he presided over in Malacañang, Saludo asked reporters: "Is there anybody in this room who knows what's going on in the President's head?"

But Saludo expressed appreciation for the reported endorsement of the International Board of Advisors for the President's candidacy during her meeting with them in New York.

"We're appreciative of this support to our government and our economy," Saludo said.

Jose Ma. Rufino, presidential political adviser, agreed with the assessment of Dodi Limcaoco, presidential adviser on media and religious affairs, that the President was bound to make a major decision after her meeting with the Pope.

Limcaoco recalled that when Ms Macapagal finally decided to break away from the embattled Estrada administration in 2001, she did it right after meeting with the Pope.

Forum sidelight

The President's participation in the Unesco forum started off on the wrong foot, when, in a conference meant to promote better understanding among people of diverse cultures and tongues, her name became "Makapal Ajiyo" on the lips of the Unesco official who introduced her onstage.

But instead of being affected by the linguistic gaffe committed by conference president Ahmad Jalali, Ms Macapagal gamely



GLORIA in Paris. President Macapagal, husband Jose Miguel Arroyo and party are welcomed at the Only International Airport in Paris by Philippine Ambassador to France Hector Villaroel and Unesco official Ahmed Saleh Sayyad. Trailing behind is Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

PCPO-MALACAÑANG



PRESIDENT Macapagal shakes hands with Italian President Carlo Ciampi before her speech at the Unesco in Paris Monday. PCPO-MALACAÑANG

Bush security team riles Filipino lawmakers

From page A1

Bush's speech before Congress have sequestered the Almon Marina café in the Batasan complex, with construction workers converting its 50-square-meter space into a "security holding area."

The café provides direct access to the north wing entrance into the session hall as well as other security-sensitive areas such as the Office of the Speaker.

While carpenters are busy hammering away, talks swirled that the entire House would be cleared out one week before Bush's arrival, as a precaution.

The tough measures got the ire of opposition congressmen, leading them to denounce the US Secret Service's takeover of the House. Bush will address a joint session of Congress on Oct. 18.

Minority Leader Carlos Padilla, Deputy Minority Leader Rolox Suplico and Rep. Celso Lobregat of Zamboanga City reacted strongly to reports quoting Rep.

Apolinario Lozada, chair of the House committee on foreign relations, as saying that the 2,000 employees of the House will be given a one-week vacation starting Oct. 11 so that the Secret Service could effectively secure the House.

Citing a reliable source, Lozada said the Legislative Security Bureau and Special Action Force of the Philippine National Police detailed at the House would also call off work.

"So the Speaker must clarify these issues if these are true or not," Lozada said.

But Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez, who is the acting chief of the House, said he had not received any word to that effect.

"I think Congressman Lozada talks too much," Gonzalez said.

Takeover protest

If Lozada's information proves true, Padilla said, he will not attend the joint session.

During President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address in July, Padilla protested the Presidential Security Group's takeover of House security.

"In Sonar, I questioned the PSG takeover of the House security even if they are also Filipinos. How much more if the House security is being taken over by a foreign power?" Padilla told the INQUIRER.

Padilla said the Secret Service should just coordinate with House security, "not lord it over in our own House," if they wanted to implement stricter security measures to secure Bush.

"If that's true, then I won't attend. I thought we're already independent since 1946?" he asked.

Suplico said a one-week vacation for House employees was too much, considering they already work only four-day weeks.

He said that Filipino hospitality did not include handing over to your guest the title of the house

even if he happens to be the leader of a world superpower.

"This is the House of the Filipino people, not the House of Bush," Suplico said.

The arrangement for a security takeover, he said, was unnecessary and an insult to the country's sovereignty.

A House insider said that based on initial information, employees would be asked not to report for work from Oct. 13 to 16, or from Monday to Thursday. Because the House has a four-day week schedule, there is no work on Fridays. Bush is arriving on a Saturday.

"We've heard there is a request to clear the House but we're not sure who made the request," the insider said.

Rep. Rozanno Rufino Biazon of Muntinlupa said that if the takeover of the House security was in fact a condition set by the Secret Service, the House had no choice but to follow.

"Sad but true. We have to abide

by the world superpower," Biazon said.

Almon Marina has shifted its operations to the basement.

Continuing hearings

Though on recess, the House is currently conducting hearings on Malacañang's proposed 2004 budget.

The insider noted that Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., chair of the appropriations committee reviewing the 2004 budget, may not be inclined to suspend the budget hearings at all.

Congress resumes session on Oct. 6.

When sought for comment, administration Rep. Rodolfo Albano said he had yet to see a formal order regarding the clearing out of the House for Bush's visit.

But Albano said: "Certainly we will not allow the Bush visit to disrupt our normal functions."

"We will not allow any external power to interfere with our jobs," he added.

Lobregat said that declaring a one-week vacation for employees would definitely affect the schedule of the budget hearings by the different House committees.

Hand shake

As part of the protocol arrangement, only Speaker Jose de Venecia and Senate President Franklin Drilon would be allowed to shake hands with Bush.

Gonzalez said he saw nothing wrong with the arrangement. He said the protocol for this event was being handled by the protocol officers of Malacañang.

"It's OK if protocol dictates that only the Speaker and the Senate President can shake hands with Mr. Bush. It would be impossible for Mr. Bush to shake hands with more than 200 congressmen and senators present," Gonzalez said.

Lobregat said he would not mind not shaking Bush's hand. "If Mr. Bush does not want to shake my hand, that's not my loss," he said, laughing.

GMA 7: Probe Team show is still with us

From page A1

still with us."

But Raquel indicated that as of now, the situation could go either way. "For all we know, it (axing the show) might never happen," he said.

Talk was rife that Channel 7 would drop the show due to the controversy that surrounded the one-week cancellation of an episode on Genuino.

The airing of the episode was held off by the network's management until The Probe Team could come up with more documents to support its conclusion that Genuino owned shares in several corporations that he did

not declare in his statements of assets and liabilities for February 2001, December 2001 and December 2002.

Supporting data

The show was aired the following week with some changes. "We wanted them to put in more supporting data so their conclusion can stand. Is that censorship?" Gozon said.

"We have the power to destroy a person's reputation. We can make the reputation of a person very good or very bad. Before you destroy a reputation you should have basis. We would rather err in good faith. At least

we tried," the network president said.

"The objective is to have a balanced and responsible delivery of news," Gozon added.

The day after the management held off the show, The Probe Team went to the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication and aired the controversial episode, Lazaro, whose husband, Delfin, is a cousin of Gozon, cried censorship.

Gozon, a lawyer, said what he wanted was simply for The Probe Team to check on updated documents of the companies linked to Genuino. Gozon noted that many firms were not effi-

cient in regularly submitting amended articles of incorporation. The data the Team got were documents dated in their early 1980s.

Over at ABS-CBN Corp., two of its top executives have differing views about whether to get The Probe Team should GMA 7 let go of the award-winning show.

"Why not?" Freddie M. Garcia, ABS-CBN president and chief operating officer, said at a lunch for business journalists yesterday. "They started with us." Garcia said the network giant in fact had asked Lazaro to be its news director.

But Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez

III, the network's chair and chief executive officer, was noncommittal, saying the format of The Probe Team was different from ABS-CBN's programs.

"All our news are internal. We don't co-produce," Lopez said. Moreover, "all our slots are full," he said.

Sembrano's attitude

Asked if Channel 2 would take Bernadette Sembrano should she quit GMA, Lopez said it may not be a good idea.

"It is demoralizing to always get talents from the outside. It does not work," he said.

Channel 2 pirated several talents of Channel 7 over the past

years such as Luchi Cruz-Valdes, DJ Sta. Ana and Karen Davila.

Gozon said the pulling out of Sembrano from anchoring Saksi was due to the attitude she displayed on TV.

When the announcement came that the controversial episode was going to be aired, the camera panned to Sembrano who was looking very angry and upset. She even walked out of the set. The report on Genuino was made by Sembrano.

"Sembrano is not with The Probe Team, she is with us (GMA 7). She should not cross her professional obligation between the two," Gozon said.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

American troops in Iraq face more bomb attacks

BAGHDAD—US soldiers faced more attacks in Iraq on Monday amid growing indications that Washington was ill-prepared to manage the occupation of the country in the wake of its military victory over Saddam Hussein.

As the United States and Britain insisted that their invasion of Iraq was fully justified, more US troops were called for duty there, despite mounting public opposition to their continued presence against the security turmoil in the war-ravaged country.

A day after four US soldiers were wounded in homemade bomb attacks, another American convoy was targeted in Fallujah, 50 km west of Baghdad, Iraqi police and US officials said.

Police officer Ismail Ibrahim said the convoy of three or four vehicles was attacked about 10 a.m. Monday in the town, where anti-US sentiment runs high, and "the Americans opened fire blindly."

Witnesses said they saw several US soldiers wounded, some seriously, but there was no official confirmation. An AFP journalist at the site saw one Humvee military vehicle damaged.

Though a US soldier at the scene confirmed the attack, without mentioning any wounded, a military spokesperson in Baghdad said they had no report of the incident.

Witnesses in Khaldiya, 80 km west of Baghdad, said US troops also took heavy casualties in a firefight on Monday after their convoy came under attack from bombs and rocket-propelled grenades.

The witnesses said several US soldiers were killed but there was no official confirmation of any deaths.

On Sunday, the US military said it had found four caches of weapons, including missiles, near Saddam's hometown of Tikrit, 175 km north of Baghdad. The largest cache, found on the outskirts of Tikrit, included 23 Russian-made surface-to-air missiles, C-4 explosives, RPGs, hand grenades, smoke pots, blasting caps and rocket motors.

The rocket grenades are often stripped down by forces still loyal to Saddam and used to make homemade bombs, such as those that wounded four US soldiers earlier in the day in two separate attacks, north and south of the capital.

Rebuke

In a significant rebuke of the US intelligence community, US lawmakers said the White House relied on information that was circumstantial, fragmentary and filled with uncertainties to justify the Iraq war, according to US media reports.

The House permanent select committee on intelligence, after four months combing through 19 volumes of classified material used by the Bush administration to make its case for war, found significant deficiencies in the intelligence community's ability to

collect fresh intelligence on Iraq, the Washington Post reported.

The CIA blasted the criticism, but the latest edition of the US magazine Newsweek said Monday that while the Pentagon was focused on winning the war, the occupation was a second thought.

The weekly painted a picture of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld refusing to allow 16 out of 20 Pentagon experts to go to Baghdad because they were "Arab apologists," had positive opinions of the United Nations or other views not acceptable to the neo-conservatives running the US government.

While Pentagon officials derided the United Nations, the state department was getting information from UN officials on the conditions of the infrastructure, especially the power grid, whose dilapidation took the Pentagon by surprise, Newsweek said.

"We have until Ramadan—which begins Oct. 27—to turn it around," British Prime Minister Tony Blair's emissary to the region, John Sawyers, told US officials. "After that it will be too late."

During a visit to Spanish and Latin American troops in Iraq, Spanish Defense Minister Federico Trillo defended the military campaign that toppled Saddam in April, but admitted that none of the occupying armies had a model for reconstruction that was suitable for a country like Iraq.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell, for his part, told ABC television that the United States would have a new resolution ready for the UN Security Council within two days,

but was not counting on getting large numbers of foreign troops to help its forces in Iraq.

Protests

In Los Angeles, 3,000 demonstrators took to the streets of Hollywood chanting slogans and holding signs as part of a worldwide protest against the occupation of Iraq.

Similar rallies were held Sunday in Boston, San Francisco, and Vancouver, British Columbia, and followed international protests Saturday in London, Athens, Paris and other cities.

"George Bush, Uncle Sam, Iraq will be your Vietnam," demonstrators chanted while walking down Sunset Boulevard. The peaceful march and rally drew a wide group from war veterans to parents with children in strollers. Some demonstrators carried signs saying, "Lying Son of a Bush," "Recall Bush" and "Iraq Equals Quagmire."

"We are supposed to be a democratic, free nation and I want to express my feelings against this criminal administration," said Pilar Hapoori, 58, of Garden Grove. "This is a dangerous administration for destroying not only the US, but the world."

At a rally following the march in Los Angeles, Democratic presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich said that US troops should be pulled out of Iraq and replaced by international forces.

"We need to get the UN in and the US out," Kucinich said. "There can be a way to extricate this nation from the quagmire of Iraq." *Reports from AFP and AP*

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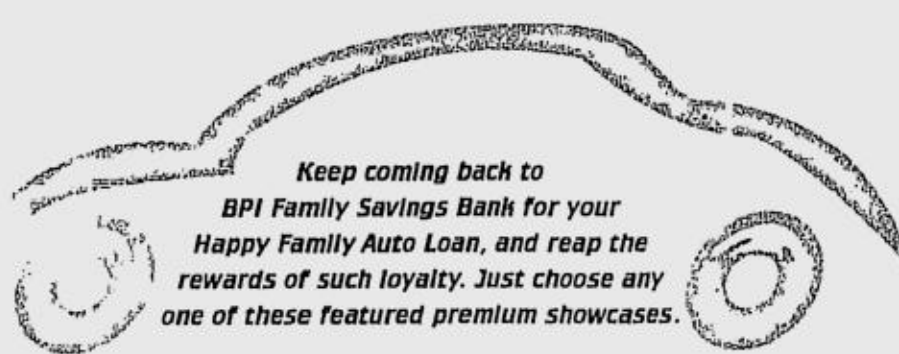
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2 accomplices in Bali bombing convicted

BALI, Indonesia—An Indonesian court sentenced two men to up to 15 years in jail Monday for providing housing and facilitating meetings of militants plotting last year's Bali nightclub bombings that killed 202 people.

Judges found Maskur bin Abdul Kadir and Hernianto guilty of violating antiterror laws by helping organizers of the bombings rent a safe house on Bali and hosting gatherings of the militants at which plans for the Oct. 12 attacks were drawn up.

But the court ruled that there was insufficient evidence to support prosecution claims the defendants knew that the people attending the meetings were terrorists planning an attack.

Hernianto, who like many Indonesians uses a single name, was sentenced to 12 years in prison, while Maskur was jailed for 15 years.

Indonesian authorities have arrested about three dozen people in connection with the bombings, the worst terrorist atrocity

since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States.

Two of the militants have been sentenced to death, and 13 others have received prison terms ranging from seven years to life.

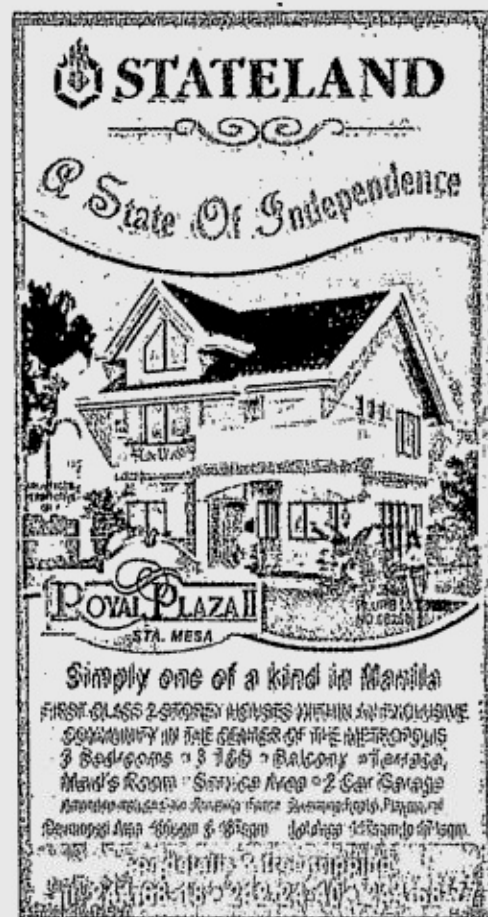
Hernianto claimed during earlier court sessions that he "only served tea and cakes" at the September 2001 meeting in his house on Indonesia's main island of Java.

The meeting was attended by several key figures involved in the blasts, including Amrozi bin Nurhasyim and Imam Samudra, both of whom have been sentenced to death for their roles in planning and carrying out the attacks.

Lawyers for both Maskur and Hernianto said they would appeal the verdicts.

Prosecutors had asked for a 20-year prison sentence for each of the men.

The attack has been blamed on Jemaah Islamiyah, a loose collection of Islamic militants that has been described by intelligence officials as al-Qaida's Southeast Asian affiliate.



WORLD BRIEFS

Power outage

ROME—A storm-tossed tree branch that hit Swiss power lines helped trigger a massive blackout in almost all of Italy, trapping thousands on trains and forcing the Pope to use a backup generator to proclaim his new cardinals. It was Italy's worst power outage since World War II. AP

Colombia blast

BOGOTA—Eleven people were killed and some 47 injured in a bomb blast in the southern Colombian city of Florencia, police said, blaming the Marxist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia for the attack. The bombing, which was carried out early Sunday with a motorcycle packed with explosives, hit a section of Florencia that is home to bars and restaurants. AFP

Beggars shipped out

BANGKOK—Thailand on Monday began flying home 621 illegal Cambodian migrants who were rounded up during the past week in a drive to clear beggars from Bangkok before it hosts a summit of Asia-Pacific leaders, officials said. Three C-130 cargo planes were making two flights each to fly the detainees to the Cambodian capital in Thailand's first such mass deportation of illegal migrants by air. Bangkok is welcoming 21 leaders, including US President George W. Bush, for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit on Oct. 20-21. City officials plan to remove some 10,000 beggars, prostitutes and homeless people from the streets ahead of the meeting. AP

Only for president

JAKARTA—Former Indonesian military chief retired general Wiranto on Monday said that he is aiming for the presidency in the upcoming elections in 2004 and has no interest in the vice presidency. "I do not want to sit as vice president, only as president," Wiranto who was military chief when longtime dictator Suharto resigned in 1998, said while on a visit in Jambi, Sumatra island. AFP

Malaysia mall

KUALA LUMPUR—Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Monday launched Malaysia's largest shopping mall after a four-year delay, saying the mammoth project would be a major boost to tourism. Sharing a name with New York's famed Times Square as well as other malls in Tokyo and Hong Kong, the giant Berjaya Times Square owned by tycoon Vincent Tan took nine years to complete at a cost of \$487 million. AFP

Refinery fire

TOKYO—Firefighters on the northern Japan island of Hokkaido battled Monday to contain a blaze at an oil refinery sparked by last week's earthquake, as powerful aftershocks continued to rumble through the region. Under a plume of oily black smoke and huge pillars of flame, firefighters doused a storage tank with chemicals to try to extinguish the fire at the refinery run by one of Japan's largest oil companies, Idemitsu Kosan Co., in the Hokkaido town of Tomakomai. AP

Kazan dead; 94

NEW YORK—US director Elia Kazan, who rose to the top of Hollywood and Broadway fame but became embroiled in controversy over the naming of suspected communists during the McCarthy era, has died at the age of 94, his longtime attorney said. Kazan's theater credits include classics such as "A Streetcar Named Desire," "Death of a Salesman," "The Skin of Our Teeth," "All My Sons," "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," "Sweet Bird of Youth," "The Dark at the Top of the Stairs," "Tea and Sympathy" and "J. B." Among his best known movies were "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," "A Streetcar Named Desire," "On the Waterfront," "Viva Zapata!" "East of Eden," "Splendor in the Grass" and "America, America." His films received 21 Oscar nominations and won nine. AFP

World's oldest man

TOKYO—Yukichi Chuganji, a retired silkworm breeder documented as the world's oldest man, died at his home in Japan at age 114, his family said Monday. Chuganji was pronounced dead from natural causes on Sunday evening, said his 65-year-old nephew, Tadao Haji. AP

HK's wealthiest woman

HONG KONG—Lawyers for Hong Kong's richest woman on Monday attacked a court's finding that she probably faked the will of her late husband, who was kidnapped 13 years ago and never seen again. Nina Wang lost a drawn-out and sensational court battle with her father-in-law for the estate of her husband, the tycoon Teddy Wang, in the High Court last November. Her attorneys began arguing her appeal on Monday. AP

SA TOTOO LANG.

Sa Gasul, madaling malaman kung tunay o lokohan.





Snap-on



Screw type

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Not the promise

THE LATEST Pulse Asia survey brought sobering news to President Macapagal-Arroyo: weeks after surviving an officers' mutiny, she received her lowest popularity rating since assuming office in January 2001.

Because the poll results were released a day after she said she was leaving her decision to run in the May elections up to God, the opposition's rejoinder was both obvious and immediate.

EDITORIAL House Assistant Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla, of Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, said the survey results were "God's message to the President that she should no longer entertain the idea of seeking another term."

Pulse Asia research director Felipe Miranda surrounded the survey results with the usual apparatus of nuance, but the dramatic drop in the President's fortunes could not be finessed. "Practically all the gains she made in public approval and trust during and immediately after the Oakwood military mutiny now appear to have dissipated with her current approval and trust ratings being even marginally lower than those she registered... between March 2001 and April 2003," Miranda said, in the explanatory statement accompanying the survey results.

From 51 percent in August, in the immediate aftermath of the Magdalo mutiny, the President's approval rating dropped to 41 percent. From 44 percent in August, Ms Macapagal's trust rating dropped to 36 percent.

All across the board, the President's numbers were dismal. One of the more worrisome findings was the 15-point free fall in public approval in Metro Manila—traditionally a bellwether for national public opinion in the immediate future.

In Malacañang, the President's spokesperson waxed philosophical. "Our society is in the middle of a mood swing toward negativism instigated by malicious mudslinging," Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said, implying that the survey results were expected in the wake of opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson's Jose Pidal exposés. "We have seen the worst and we think the ratings have bottomed out. There are ups and downs and the President has learned to live with them."

Both the President's fiercest critics and staunchest allies, however, understand the latest poll numbers from within a common framework. For them, the question is: Will the results force the President to reconsider her Rizal Day pledge not to run in next year's elections?

For many, the emphasis is on the promise, and the possible breaking of it. For the opposition, the President's unprecedented decision to withdraw from an election she is not legally barred from joining has become, over the last nine months, an almost-Biblical promise carved in tablets of stone. Having recovered some part of the moral high ground through her act of renunciation, Ms Macapagal is now expected to stay there, regardless of what happens elsewhere. For the administration and its allies, the President's Dec. 30 pledge was a time-bound, circumstance-specific decision. If different conditions now exist, the President should naturally change her mind.

The issue, however, is not the President's promise; it is—it has always been—her performance.

That is why we think the initial discussion over the latest survey results was unhelpful, to say the least, because of this obsession with the Rizal Day promise.

Politicians should, like everyone else, keep their promises. But like everyone else, politicians can break promises too, if by doing so they are serving a greater good. Recent history offers many examples. The senators, for instance, who broke party ranks and voted to open the second Jose Velarde envelope during the Estrada impeachment trial. Or the congressmen who switched sides at the last moment to vote for the resolution impeaching Estrada.

The real question is, how has the President performed? The latest Pulse Asia survey includes much "quality of life" data, which can be read either way. Their very ambiguity provides both the opposition and the administration new ammunition.

What does this mean? Ms Macapagal may have sought a tacit blessing from God's vicar on earth himself, but the decision to run will be made by the lowly lay, if enough of them see an improvement in their lives.



History is against GMA reelection

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz



wanted in the first place?

Also hesitant is Sen. Noli de Castro. Many politicians want him as their presidential bet because he not only topped the senatorial elections as an independent, but consistently tops the presidential surveys. But Noli would be the first to admit that "hilaw pa siya." Like FPJ, he knows he is not yet ripe for the job. It's bad enough learning the ropes in the Senate, what more in the snake pit that is Malacañang.

Other presidential wannabes who have thrown their hats into the ring are Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Sen. Panfilo Lacson, former Sen. Raul Roco, etc. But except for the latter two, their candidacies are dependent on GMA's plans. If GMA runs, they're out. They're all really willing to settle for the No. 2 spot, or for whatever they can get for withdrawing in favor of GMA.

But Roco and Lacson will be there to the bitter end. Roco is the earliest bird; he has been campaigning for a long time, long before it is legal to do so. For which reason he consistently rates high in the surveys. But will he be able to sustain his survey ratings in the homestretch, when money can spell the difference between winning and losing?

Lacson will be fighting to the finish because he is fighting for his life. He knows he has to win, or he could end up on the wrong side of Muntinlupa. If they manage to stay in Malacañang, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and GMA will never forgive him after what he did to them.

I am sure Mike A is doing everything to con-

vince GMA to run in 2004. What will happen to him when she is no longer President? What will happen to all the cronies he placed in money-making government agencies? And what will happen to all the presidential advisers, Cabinet members and other government officials who got to where they are by hanging on to the skirt of the President? Why, they would all be jobless, counting electric posts.

That is why everybody in the administration is urging her to run. Never mind if she breaks her promise and people call her a liar. *Paano naman kami?*

But can she win despite her plummeting popularity? No doubt that as the incumbent, GMA still has a lot of clout. She has the whole government and the whole treasury to use for political patronage.

But the lessons of history are against her. No Philippine president, with the exception of Marcos, has ever been reelected. And Marcos was kicked out by the people early in his third term. GMA's own father, President Diosdado Macapagal, was defeated by Marcos in a reelection bid. Macapagal himself defeated a reelectionist, Carlos Garcia.

While the 2004 presidential election is not technically a reelection bid for GMA, for the people, for all intents and purposes, it is.

Filipino voters are unkind to reelectionist presidents. Filipinos get easily disappointed. For all the landslide votes that a President may get the first time, the people are usually disappointed with him by the middle of his term. When the high expectations they had at the election of the President are not fulfilled, they turn against him. That and the impressions of corruption that bedevil every administration, conspire to defeat every reelectionist president.

We can see the mark of corruption and public disappointment on the Macapagal administration. The people themselves put Gloria in Malacañang to replace Erap. More than two years later, the same people already want to replace her.

More lightning bolts

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



countries to help him rebuild Iraq.

Wrote New York Times reporter Betsy Pisk afterward: "As US President George W. Bush left the stage on Tuesday, even the applause was tepid. 'You have to think he wants a few moments alone,' said one observer after the president's speech. 'That was the diplomatic equivalent of hurled vegetables.' The four days since President Bush's speech has reinforced for many observers how deeply unpopular the Iraq war was, and how bruised so many nations feel by the abrupt abandonment of the UN."

It was Annan who set the tone for what was to become the theme of the meeting of world leaders. Speaking before Bush, he assailed the US doctrine of "preemptive strike": "My concern is that, if it were to be adopted, it could set precedents that would result in a proliferation of the unilateral and lawless use of force, with or without credible justification. This logic represents a fundamental challenge to the principles on which, however imperfectly, world peace and stability have rested for the last 58 years."

Chirac, who came after Bush, was more scathing: "No one can act alone in the name of all and no one can accept the anarchy of a society without rules. The war, launched without the authorization of the Security Council, shook the multilateral system. The UN has just been through one of the gravest crises in its history."

Mahathir did not mince words: "Today, we are seeing the resurgence of European imperialism. At first, we thought the colonization would be virtual, merely by economic strangulation and financial emasculation.... But today, we are actually faced by the old, physical occupation

by foreign forces. Puppet regimes are installed, dancing as puppets do. And this august institution, the United Nations... is today collapsing on its clay feet, helpless to protect the weak and the poor. This United Nations can just be ignored, pushed aside, gesticulating feebly as it struggles to be relevant. Its organs have been cut out, dissected and reshaped so they may perform the way the puppet masters want."

They were but three of the world leaders who rose to condemn the US occupation of Iraq. Thankfully, for GMA at least, the Pope, being a spiritual rather than secular world leader, was not invited to the UN to share his views there. The picture would have been complete, adding a divine clincher to the temporal judgment on the American Caesar's folly there. Yet Mahathir is the person who, GMA says, shares her views on what is best for Muslim Mindanao, and the Pope is the person who, she says, shares her views on what is good for this country.

The Philippines did get some mention in Pisk's report: "So far, only the Philippines is likely to send more troops to the Iraq war effort, bumping up its current 95-person contribution if Washington or the UN will pay for it. 'We would like to send more,' Philippine President Gloria Arroyo told a small group of reporters on Thursday afternoon."

I caught a glimpse of GMA on PTV4 delivering her speech at the UN. The cameraman made the mistake of panning at her audience, a gaggle of people strewn among the seats, talking to one another. At that she should be thankful the room was almost bare and her country wasn't being taken seriously in world affairs. Or she might have heard it from those who take wars and their consequences deathly seriously.

When Bush visits this country this month, it will be a visit of two losers. Or of two people whose touch with the world, or with reality, has become more tenuous than peace. God does speak for those who would open their hearts to hear him. There is a variation to "Vox populi, vox Dei," the voice of the people is the voice of God. And that is, "Vox orbi, vox Dei."

The voice of the world is the voice of God.

Pinoys in Italy want registration extended

PAGING Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos. I got an urgent call from Rome-based Filipino community leader and sculptor Tomas Concepcion, who voiced the request of the Pinoy communities in Italy to extend until November the deadline for registration of absentee overseas voters (it's supposed to end today). Concepcion says some 12,000 OFWs have already registered in Rome, but the number could shoot up to over 20,000 if there's more time. He notes that Rome has about 30,000 OFWs while Milan has about 35,000. He says the Pinoys in Italy are very eager to vote, but the Pinoy communities in Milan are scattered and need more time to register. I think their request for an extension is very reasonable.

I never got to know Inday Badiday well even though I have worked with her sister, Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, closely over the past 20 years now. Judging from all the eulogies for this lady who practiced a unique brand of "entertainment journalism," that was my loss. But if the way her sister Letty took care of her over the years and in every way is an indication of the kind of person Inday was, then she must have been a special person indeed. To Letty and the Jimenezes and to Inday's children and in-laws, my family's profound condolences.

It's a big honor for the Philippines that President Macapagal-Arroyo got to deliver the keynote address yesterday morning at the 32nd General Conference of the Unesco in Paris, before over 3,000 delegates from 190 countries. Sharing the limelight with her are five heads of state, including Presidents Carlo Azeglio Ciampi of Italy and Jacques Chirac of France, and US First Lady Laura Bush. It's the first time a Filipino head of state was accorded this honor, but also a cause for celebration was the fact that yesterday, RP's own EarthSavers Dreams Ensemble won the prestigious "Unesco Artists for Peace" Award from Unesco Director General Koichiro Matsuura. This means the group now shares honors with world-renowned artists previously cited by the Unesco like Celine Dion and Shirley Bassey; it's the first time for the Philippines and only the second for

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



the Asia Pacific region to be so honored.

The Earthsavers Dreams Ensemble is the cultural arm of the Earthsavers Movement founded by former Environment Secretary and now Presidential Adviser for overseas Filipino communities Heherson Alvarez, and its artistic director is his incredibly talented wife Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, my radio partner. What makes the group "one of the most unique theater companies," according to Unesco, is that it specializes in recruiting and training "damaged human resources" into productive artists who conscientize the public on cultural and environmental issues through a relevant arts program rooted in indigenous heritage. Among these "damaged human resources" whom Cecile has molded into performing artists and productive citizens are blind, mute, deaf and paraplegic kids from the marginalized sectors of RP society. For instance, the Ensemble's lead singer, Jamie Castillo, who was blind from birth, has just won a scholarship in Los Angeles in Braille computer education, and she hopes to come back to teach other blind kids in return. The Unesco award is another feather in Cecile's cap.

Rep. Wilfredo Villarama opines that the Nationalist People's Coalition will align itself for the 2004 elections not with the LDP but with Lakas, with whom it has an existing alliance in the House under Speaker Jose de Venecia's "Sunshine Coalition." He opines that NPC founder Eduardo Cojuangco, being a "world-class businessman," will not allow an "inexperienced Filipino" to run the country as he knows business will be the first to suffer because of bad governance. Villarama was doubtless thinking of Sen. Panfilo Lacson and movie

king Fernando Poe Jr., who are being touted as possible opposition candidates in the event Cojuangco decides not to run. He thinks that if Cojuangco were to "remain consistent with his pronouncements," he would support President Macapagal-Arroyo instead of an opposition candidate because of her experience, intelligence and track record in economics.

There are those who share Villarama's thinking about Cojuangco's continuing alliance with Lakas. One is Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez of Lakas who opines that LDP chair Edgardo Angara is "dreaming" if he thinks the NPC would coalesce with the LDR. He thinks the NPC stands to gain more from sticking with Lakas. If this is the case, opposition senators like Angara, Aquilino Pimentel and John Osmeña would find themselves stuck, against their better judgment, with Lacson as their standard-bearer—a difficult situation for them, given his immense political baggage especially as the Kuratong Baleleng trial reopens.

Some pundits opine that Cojuangco would rather run for prime minister than for president, and I can believe that, given his 70 years and easier connection with peers in a parliament than with the masses. This could explain why the NPC is going all-out for a constituent assembly as a vehicle for Charter change.

Also making sense is the view of House NPC chief Gilbert Teodoro that the biggest stumbling block to progress is the frequent gridlock between the executive and legislative branches. Teodoro also revealed the big divide in thinking in the House between the older representatives and about 100 younger members below age 40, who are all rooting for the parliamentary system as the only way out of the current political morass and to ensure a better future for the country they want to continue serving.

Many voters feel that only a shift to a parliamentary system will rescue this country from the likes of Panfilo Lacson with his muddled public record and celebrities-turned-politicians. Let's hope the senators will realize this dreadful prospect when they consider Charter change.

'Mothering' their communities

WHAT if you ran a business and part of your "costs" came in the form of the children of your clients? What if one of the "hazards" of your job is having one of your clients come to you asking you to look after her child?

The normal businessperson would rightly view this as an unfair burden, for after all raising another person's child is not a one-shot proposition but a lifelong responsibility. And yet this is part and parcel of the many challenges midwives face.

Midwives to whom this happened, though, wax philosophical about this business "risk." "What can I do but look on them as God's blessing?" says one midwife who ended up raising two adoptive children who had been entrusted to her by clients. "With hard work and prayers," she says, she was able to send both of them through college.

They are literally the "mothers" of their communities, looking after the health of women, children and entire families, while ensuring that mothers and babies not just survive pregnancy and delivery, but enjoy good health throughout their lives. At the same time, midwives find themselves playing auxiliary roles like that of counselor, teacher, family therapist and community negotiator and leader.

The vital role that midwives play in their communities was brought home to me recently when I sat as one of the judges in the Well Family Midwives Clinic Diamond Awards, which are being granted for the first time this year.

The Well Family Midwives Clinic Partnerships Foundation is a network of over 200 family care clinics owned and managed by midwives. Set up with funding from USAID through John Snow Institute, the WFCM last year spun off into an independent foundation, having proven that providing quality and compassionate care to poor people is not only socially beneficial, but profitable, too.

I SAT as one of the judges in the "Centenary Diamond Award for Excellence in Business Management." We were looking for excellence not just in management procedures, record keeping and accounting, but also in marketing, cre-

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



ativity and resourcefulness.

Flordeliza Caspe, one of the finalists in this category, relies on a core clientele composed of members of Iglesia ni Cristo, but has since expanded her reach to market vendors and tricycle drivers and their families, known to marketers as "the working poor." Flordeliza was about to leave for the Middle East, she recalls, when her brother offered the use of the ground floor of his house for a clinic. But even now, she confides, she is anticipating the day when her brother would need the space, and has already bought a lot in Laguna where she plans to put up a "satellite" clinic. Proudly she claims to be earning much more today than she would have earned had she worked in "Saudi."

Lolita Delfin went from house-to-house in the Toril district of Davao to canvass for prospective clients and inform the community about the opening of her clinic in 1997. Though there are some 15 other private clinics in the area, including some owned by doctors and obstetricians-gynecologists, Lolita proudly reports that her clinic enjoys the largest client base. For now, her dream is to expand her clinic capacity from the present two to five beds, to as many as 10 beds.

Carolina Millan, who set up her clinic along Cattleya Street in Makati in 1991, has quite a number of "promos" to entice clients. She holds a "buntis party" for all the pregnant women in the community, offers deep discounts on special occasions like her birthday, and offers comprehensive packages, including pre-natal/delivery/post-partum/pediatric check-ups. On aver-

age, she handles some 30 deliveries a month but during peak periods she counts as many as 60 deliveries a month.

THE OTHER category where I sat as a judge was the "Regent Diamond Award for Excellence in Leadership," which measured a midwife/owner's impact on the larger community by way of her advocacy, networking, training and related activities.

Anita Alajado's clinic has become a "showcase" of the WFCM, a regular stop in the visits of foreign and local visitors. Anita is especially recognized for her pioneering work with traditional birth attendants or *hilots*, confessing that she was concerned about stories of the death of mothers and/or babies due to the ignorance or mismanagement of births by TBAs. "My problem was how to convince them to be my partners," confides Anita, testifying to the natural "hostility" between them since they could very well have seen her as "competition" for the *hilots*' services. But together with Davao city health officials, she was able to reach out to the *hilot* community and provide basic training on sanitation and safe motherhood practices. Today, says Anita, the *hilots* have even set up a referral system, referring their "mothers" to her for family planning and child care services.

Lourdes Mangahas was a rural health midwife for 14 years before she took the challenge of setting up her own Well Family clinic. A recognized authority in Sapang Palay on family health matters, she is regularly tapped to be a resource person by schools and neighborhood groups and has even appeared on TV where she talked about the importance of family planning.

For her part, Francisca dela Cruz has made good use of her background as a midwifery instructor to upgrade the skills of other midwives and has emerged as an effective spokesperson on the rights of women to reproductive health care services. Elma Boluso, a former provincial health employee, used her wide network to convince other midwives to set up the WFCM's throughout Capiz, while evolving into an effective spokesperson for the profession.

Urban development

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



ment and Natural Resources (ecosystems), National Museum and NHI (for reasons members of Heritage Conservation Society know), Department of Tourism (travel), Department of Health (noise and smoke pollution are hazardous), Department of Education (busy highways should not pass too close to schools). This proposal was taken up by the Committee on Monuments and Sites at the NCCA some years back, when the problem of Carcar came up after Dr. Jaime Laya commented that it was bound to happen again and again unless we plan with the departments. I don't think we did anything about the problem but I hope that future committees will take this up.

A French diplomat observed that "government agencies here do not know what the other is doing. There is no dialogue across boundaries." I think we all know this problem too well and have suffered its consequent blunders. What is amazing is the amount of inconvenience and harassment we are able to put up with silently. The diplomat also noted that the government keeps ignoring "culture." Aha, well, there's the rub. To the end of my days I'm sure I will be reminded that "culture" is expensive and isn't for the poor. Neither by the way are museums, botanical gardens, parks and sidewalks. If you're poor in this country you deserve only your cardboard lean-to. Thanks to Sec. Joey. Lina though, you can park this wherever the spirit moves you.

Dr. Zialcita traces the problem to the fact that planning is the preserve of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) whose bias is toward economics. (If that's the case why are we

still doing so badly and still don't have any parks?) No other government agency is involved in this. On the other hand, if other government agencies were involved, given our tendencies, would anything ever get done, or would we merely be creating another level of bureaucracy? Anyway, the so-called "essential agencies" are the Department of Energy, DENR, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Finance and Department of Transportation and Communications. Does this mean we can blame our miserable financial state on them?

According to Dr. Zialcita, planning in Indonesia at the highest levels "cuts across several disciplinary boundaries. It brings together economists, finance specialists, political scientists and sociologists" which may explain partly why Jakarta looks so much better than any of our cities. Neda, it seems, is wary of anything that has to do with ecology and culture.

But it is definitely in our interests to complain about this segmented approach. We have all seen the mess urban development programs have cost not only aesthetically but for our lungs and well-being. It has also destroyed much of our heritage so that in the destruction the message given is loud and clear: Heritage or patrimony isn't particularly important (consider Manila Hotel). Heritage is thus regarded as marginal "whereas in Western European countries, it is seen as intimately connected with development."

Although the latest survey says that the Filipino youth are voting with their feet while trying to get out of the country, those who remain should realize that they will be inheriting a bloody mess born of incompetence, vested interests and corruption. As Dr. Manahan states "people and their environmental settings are key to an integrated planning strategy. We have to build our capability to fully harness the unique nature of our resources and the legacies that we have to conserve and perpetuate in a physical setting that has to be sustainable." So insist that your voices be heard—this is your land and your future.

Anticipation

DON'T give me that look. Yes, I know, it's so unlike me to talk about sex.

Well... things have changed. Blame it on "Sex and the City." Or blame my guy best friend. Blame it on the fact that it's been eight months since I broke up with my boy—pfft. Never mind, that's definitely not one of the reasons.

Or you could blame the fact that I've never had it.

Surprise, surprise.

Not so many girls are still chaste virgins. And here I am, still a virgin, although I won't be a hypocrite and say I'm chaste. Hell, I am a writer and I have the wildest imagination. Which is why I wouldn't hear of it

when I was in high school and even until I was a junior in college. I could visualize myself with the guy I was pining for whenever I closed my eyes. But of course, I'd imagine that it was happening on my wedding night.

The first time I had a boyfriend (a long-distance affair which unfortunately lasted for only eight months) and had that phenomenal first kiss, the kind I kept seeing in the movies and television (in high school we called it "the Melrose kiss"), somehow I understood why some girls get pregnant. No, I didn't have the urge to do it just yet, I just felt a different kind of need. Immaculate as I considered myself to be, I was resolved that the only kiss I'd give him would be a sweet, long kiss—no tongues meeting. Ah, but that was when the sadness and other emotions were too much to bear coupled with the fact that it was the first time of both of us (curiosity always kills the cat). The tendency to open the mouth and the idea that it wouldn't hurt to find out were too strong to resist. Still my first "Melrose kiss" lasted for only five seconds, followed by feelings of uncertainty and shyness—and a second kiss, this time a little bolder. And that, we yearned for a third (which we did) and a fourth, but then it was time to go home.

When we parted, I touched my lips and realized that it evoked a different kind of feeling. No, it wasn't really a desire for sex, but of wanting to kiss again. And then I found myself thinking about how I could make it more exciting, or more passionate.

Distance, however, kept me from applying the techniques I had devised and imposed upon us a maddening abstinence. Which is much deadlier for a writer with a passion for love stories and a very graphic imagination. Most nights, I had to force myself to stop thinking of different ways of kissing him. I felt so bad that I thought of breaking up with him because I was having not-so-pure thoughts already, which was so unlike me. But then I would find myself smiling every time I had such impure thoughts.

One very ordinary day, my *barkada* and I had a no-holds-barred session on the question: "If you had to be with someone else besides your boyfriend, who would it be?" The issue later developed into: "If you had to do it with someone besides your boyfriend, who would it be?" And the questions just became juicier and juicier. But there we were, giggling like maniacs, though there were some who refused to close their eyes for a minute to imagine anything. Soon my guy best friend was talking about everything he knew (and I'm talking big-time expertise here) about the three-letter word. And the funny thing was that I started it all by asking.

Yeah, I know. I could have asked my parents who are open about it. But I kept thinking they're parents. You live with them. Although you are tempted to imagine what they are doing when you find their bedroom locked, you still find it very hard to ask such questions.

My best friend... well, he looked quite comfortable discussing the topic. One time, we were at it from 1 to 6 a.m., stopping our conversation only when we saw the sunrise. From then on, I would ask him anything.

"Sex and the City" scandalized me. But really, it is simply about four liberated single New Yorkers looking for the right man, just like any other sentimental girl.

I am in the middle of the same process, but unlike the four sexy girls, I want to remain a virgin until I get married. I know, I know. It's an antiquated mentality. I respect others who are experienced. And while I used to wonder why a lot of people engage in premarital sex, I now understand the power of pleasure and passion. For me our "Melrose kiss" was a physical thing that added to my regrets over our breakup. Up to now there are times when I'd blurt out in a middle of a conversation, "Nangungulila ako sa halik." When I chew on a gum my ex-boyfriend used to chew, I remember his breath and his sweet minty lips on mine.

My friend sometimes complains about an ex-girlfriend who seems to have gotten "too much pleasure" from him that she keeps looking for excuses to be with him. Once she even invited him for an overnight visit to Tagaytay.

I don't think it is the sex or the "Melrose" or the innocent peck that holds us down to our partners. My best friend, for example, may be a terrific sex partner to his old girlfriend but I honestly believe she wants him because he's a great guy. He is an affectionate, charming and passionate guy, and a true gentleman. I guess she regrets letting him go because she lost a very special guy who did everything to make her happy. I'm not talking simply of physical desire here. I'm talking of big-time love.

Call me a sick and sentimental fool, but I believe that it's love that keeps people together. The sex comes as an additional benefit to a relationship. And I, for one, would rather give this benefit to my partner after the wedding ceremony to make him feel that the application and employment were worth it. I'll be giving him other benefits along the way, but the sex should come as a bonus. Until the wedding, suggestions of greater physical pleasures through passionate kisses should be enough to spice up the relationship. Anticipation always makes things sweeter.

In the meantime, I will continue asking questions, watching "Sex and the City" and imagining my wedding night. Although it would help if I get started on the search for my lifetime partner. If it takes too much time, I just might delete this whole essay from my file and hook up with the first guy I meet.

Ok, don't give me that look. I was only joking.

Nawe, 22, has to use a pen name because she works in an institution where sex is practically taboo as a topic of discussion.

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A way with words

I AM writing to express my hope that ABS-CBN had the sense NOT to have beamed the Sept. 23 episode of "Kris and Joey" show to their Filipino channels abroad.

I don't particularly care who between Joey Marquez and Kris Aquino is telling the truth—but I can tell you that Kris got better lighting than Joey did on GMA.

Kris had the benefit of musical scoring on the dramatic highlights of her version of the tale, while Joey's ambient noise included hotel patrons saying their good-byes.

Despite Kris' pointedly "naked face" (all the better to highlight vulnerability), she had a whole lot less shine than Joey's problem with sebum and an errant eyelid.

Joey's static head-shot lacked the animation and the aesthetic appeal of Kris' extreme close-ups (especially each time she seemed on the verge of tears).

Kris also got quite a huge allotment

of time from her network (enough to allow for several dramatic pauses, punctuated with sighs) compared to the relatively shorter airtime given to her now ex-paramour.

Why, then, shouldn't the rest of the world have seen last night's TV Patrol episode if it was so aesthetically superior to the one on GMA?

Because it's a NEWS PROGRAM. It's bad enough that the rest of the world probably thinks we're going to the dogs with all the alleged dirty laundry being aired in the Philippine government—we have to deal with the repercussions of a show-biz break-up taking up a whole chunk of prime-time national news!

There are enough soap operas and telenovelas taking up air-time—must it eat into serious news? Can we really be this low?

Millions of people pay for the consequences of making bad choices every day. A huge number of them choose to keep their dignity intact.

Must the Filipino be made to admire Kris' complete disregard for decency? Even if it is in the guise of honesty? Must we be made to cheer on as Corazon Aquino is forced to compromise her integrity and dignity in support of a selfish child? Must the Filipino be made to believe that scandal is a desirable thing? Must we be made to choose to side between two individuals who don't have a leg of credibility to stand on?

I can imagine the scriptwriters from every movie company struggling to keep up with all the juicy lines that were just pouring out of Kris. The girl does have a way with words.

And, yes, I was glued. That's what frightens me. That this was so riveting. That this is what passes for "relevant" in this country. That this is what millions of other Filipinos—both here and abroad—were watching and discussing as "news."

—MAY ZAYCO,
sighing@mydestiny.net

Male privilege and violence

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

cence on the other.

On "Dong Puno Live" the other night, Sylvia (Guy) Estrada-Claudio, a physician and clinical psychologist, urged people to think of how this violence is often rooted in families. She was not referring to the relationships between husbands and wives (or boyfriends and girlfriends) but to the gender roles we propagate, especially by the way we raise our children.

Most of the time, we propagate these roles quite innocently. A student of mine says that whenever her brother gets sick, their mother responds by fretting, asking if he needs her to do anything, if she should go out to get him some medicine. In contrast, when it's my student who gets sick, what she gets is a scolding: "You see, you haven't been taking care of yourself. You never listen to me, so look, now you're sick. I told you so."

I'm sure many readers will relate to these scenarios. No doubt, the mothers who do this love both their sons and daughters but still play out gender roles passed on through the generations.

Our males are raised to define their personhood (*pagkatao*) in terms of masculinity (*pagkalalake*), which in turn is defined mainly in terms of privilege. Ask young teenage males what they think of "*pagkabinata*" (turning into an adolescent male) and they will describe what society now allows them to do: smoke, drink, stay out late at night, cut classes. In contrast, young females define "*pagkadalaga*" (female adolescence) in terms of responsibilities over and above those that already existed before. This can mean finishing her studies, getting a job, helping siblings through school.

I've written in an earlier column how much of a risk it is to support males through school. The ones I support are always running out of their allowance before the month is up, flunking courses, getting into fraternity rumbles, and impregnating their girlfriends. My female scholars, on the other hand, will stretch their allowances and share this with other siblings. They graduate on schedule and with honors.

What's disturbing is that the poorer the family, the greater the chance that the male will be delinquent. I've often had to talk with the delinquent's mother about this, almost admonishing her against allowing their son to become such *señoritos*, amid the family's grinding poverty. These rearing practices produce the proverbial Juan Tamad, the male staying home jobless while his wife wears herself down with odd jobs to keep the family surviving.

You can imagine if a male is raised to be as privileged as he is in the Philippines, then there are no limits to his idea of what he is entitled to. In fact, his very maleness is defined, much like the peacock, by public displays of excess, spending way beyond the family's means to wear the most expensive of clothes, to get the latest models of cars and cell phones. In a conflict situation, the Pinoy male is allowed, no, even expected, to rage when something goes wrong. Problems are solved, it is presumed, by male authority, male force.

If the male finally strikes a woman in anger, she is the one blamed. We see these expectations played out in the Kris Aquino case, with people speculating she probably was a nagger. In fact, both Filipino men and women have been known to advise husbands of naggers to "put her in place" by beating her up.

We see society's expectations played out even after the violence has been inflicted, people suggesting that the woman be more understanding, more patient and forgiving. The male emerges as the underdog, the victim of a woman who dares to defy male privilege.

What's so distressing about the Kris-and-Joey show is that it doesn't just play out gender norms of male privilege but may in fact be reinforcing them. Projecting Kris as a feminist heroine is dangerous; as far as I'm concerned, her coming out publicly against Marquez was done more out of spiteful ball-crushing vengeance rather than asserting women's rights. A liberated woman she is not, especially with her penchant for married men, and I can predict her impulsiveness will bring more trouble to her, and a nation as desperate for role models as the President is for word from God to make her run in 2004.

Let's have less coverage of the Kris-and-Joey debacle in the mass media, and more discussions in schools and at home about gender equity, together with some hard thinking about why and how we raise our sons and daughters to be so violently different.

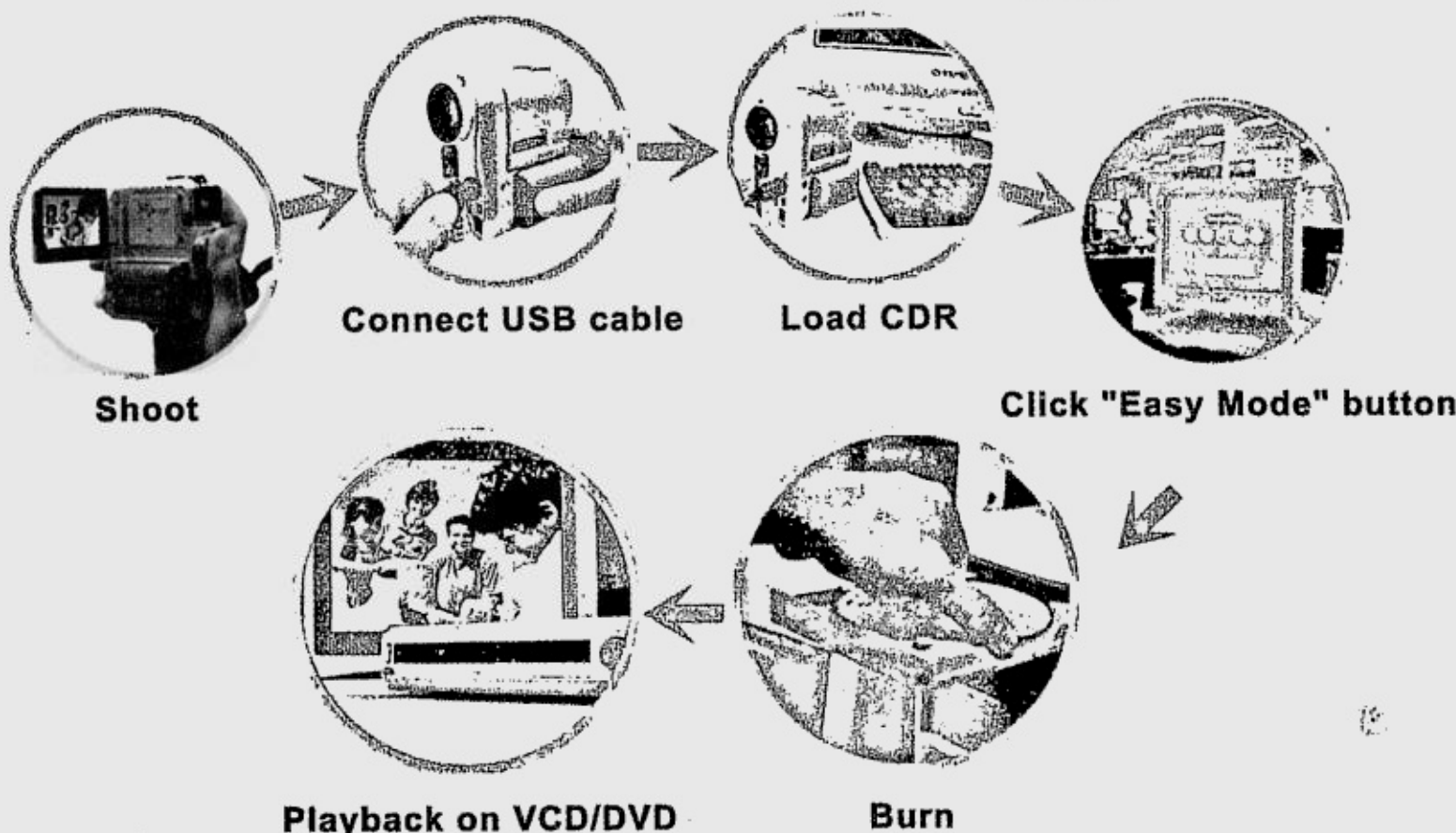
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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Libel case vs Inquirer dismissed

LUCENA CITY—The prosecutor's office here has dismissed the libel case filed by a senior police officer against the INQUIRER last year.

In her order dated Aug. 5, Chief Prosecutor Thelma Desembrana-Bustonera said the charge for libel filed by Senior Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino, former Quezon police chief, against INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot, editor in chief Leticia Jimenez-Magsanoc, reporter Philip Tubeza and Southern Luzon Bureau correspondent Delfin T. Mallari Jr., was dismissed for lack of evidence.

The case stemmed from a story written in 2001 by Tubeza and Mallari, which was based on the affidavit submitted by Jonathan Perfiñan to the Department of Justice. Perfiñan accused Alejandrino, Lucena City Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr., and then Quezon Rep. Marcial Punzalan Jr. of alleged involvement in big-time drug syndicate.

Bustonera ordered the filing of perjury case against Perfiñan for the false statements in his affidavit that he submitted to the DOJ. *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Davao meet urges Magna Carta for journalists

DAVAO CITY—Journalists here urged Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo to push in Congress his idea of a Magna Carta for Journalists and Media Workers to assure media of basic economic and constitutional rights.

Ocampo, himself a former journalist, opened the idea of a Magna Carta for members of the press in last Saturday's conference of journalists on their economic rights and welfare.

But Ocampo said he also pointed out that in the case of the Magna Carta for Workers passed some years back, no effort has been taken to implement it.

City Councilor Angela Librado said a Magna Carta must be initiated by the members of press for they know the real situation within their ranks.

But she allayed fears it would be tantamount to controlling the press. She said the proposed Magna Carta must be carefully drafted as this would be a basis for legislation.

Councilor Leonardo Avila, who is still an active broadcaster, said the document must also define the parameters so it would not in-

fringe on press freedom.

Ocampo urged the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP)-Davao chapter to make suggestions and work on it.

For the first time, the NUJP has initiated the workshop conference last Saturday for it believes that addressing the economic condition of journalists would mean a responsible and vigilant press.

Ocampo said he would make it a reference for legislation to improve pay levels and working conditions of journalists.

Ocampo said the constitutional guarantees for journalists cannot be carried out unless Congress comes up with legislation.

"I fully subscribe to the belief that press freedom can only thrive in a society where journalists and ordinary citizens, for that matter, are not constrained by exploitation and

oppression of a few, nor by fear, corruption and poverty," he said.

According to Ocampo, starvation wages, non-granting of social security and basic benefits by their employers, rampant violations of their rights to security of tenure and trade union busting are the equally grave though subtle forms of exploitation and repression of journalists aside from brutal attacks against the working press.

"Violations of journalists' labor and economic rights—like censorship, harassment and violent attacks on media—should be viewed with the same concern by those in the industry and the public in general," he said.

He added that these actions have a direct impact not only on the constitutional rights of journalists as workers, but also on some core issues undermining the integrity of the Fourth Estate today.

Ocampo pointed that poor wages and the absence of benefits contribute to the deterioration of ethical standards and responsibility in journalism. *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Duterte links poll foe to Pala slay

DAVAO CITY—Mayor Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday turned the tables on former Mayor Benjamin de Guzman when he said there were indications his erstwhile ally knew something about the death of broadcaster Juan Porras Pala Jr.

Pala, a staunch critic of Duterte, was gunned down Sept. 6 in Vista Verde Village in Buhangin District while on his way home.

Duterte, who has been rumored to be behind Pala's death, said he suspected that the assassination of the broadcaster was aimed at destroying his image.

Duterte said De Guzman, who ran against him in 2001, stands to gain in the efforts to link him to Pala's death.

"But who could benefit from the death of Pala? Definitely not me because it just only paints black on my name," Duterte told reporters in a hastily called press conference here.

He said three policemen, two of whom were frequenting De Guzman's house, were seen with Pala shortly before the killing.

De Guzman laughed off Duterte's analogy saying the mayor has apparently started to feel the heat of his being linked to Pala's murder. *Anthony S. Allada with reports from Joselle R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT is exactly 505 days today since Pagadian Journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

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Batangas gov't prepares to take over golf course

NASUGBU, Batangas—After Nov. 11, if the owners of Evercrest Golf Club and Resort Inc. will not yet pay its delinquent real estate property taxes, the provincial government is bound to take over the premiere golf course in Barangay Caylaway in this town.

According to a one-page declaration of sale of delinquent property signed by Batangas provincial treasurer Jessie Cantos, the total unpaid real property tax of Evercrest amounts to P14.8 million.

The amount of tax delinquency covers the tax years from 2000 to 2002.

The golf course, with a total land area of 602,258 square

meters and an assessed value of P173.9 million, has been forfeited by the provincial government for public auction on Nov. 7, 2002 at the lobby of the Provincial Capitol of Batangas.

According to Cantos, if Evercrest does not redeem or pay its delinquent taxes in a year from the date of sale on Nov. 11, 2002, the provincial government will take over the property.

According to the Local Government Code of 1991, a delinquent property that has been issued a notice of sale or auction has a one-year redemption period for the company, or else the provincial government will take over it. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

P53.6M IN UNPAID TAXES

Steel firm faces machine loss

BALAYAN, Batangas—If the Steel Corporation of the Philippines (Steelcorp), the country's leading steel company, fails to pay its unpaid real property tax on Oct. 20, the provincial government of Batangas would have to forfeit its machines and equipment.

A one-page letter of Jessie Cantos, provincial treasurer, to the Steelcorp management, said the company should pay its real property taxes for the second quarter of 2003 and the previous years amounting to P53.6 million.

Steelcorp is located in Barangay Munting Tubig here.

Under RA 7160, or the Local Government Code of 1991, the provincial government has the right to auction the properties of Steelcorp to cover the unpaid taxes.

The unpaid taxes, according to the computation from the municipal treasurer's office of Balayan town, accumulated from balances of the real property taxes on Steelcorp's machin-

ery and equipment since the first quarter of 2001 until the second quarter of 2003.

Although Steelcorp has been prompt in paying its taxes on the machinery and equipment, the amount the company paid was not sufficient, as it only paid the taxes based on the acquisition cost of the property, not the prevailing costs.

In 1997, Steelcorp acquired its machinery and equipment and had them installed in 1998 at the Balayan plant.

A ruling of the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) under the Department of Finance (DoF) dated Feb. 2, 2000 said the properties should be based on the acquisition cost at that time, converted at the average rate then prevailing.

A DoF endorsement on Jan. 22, 2002 upheld this ruling.

But as early as May 19, 1999, the provincial assessor issued a Real Property Tax Order of Payment, fixing the assessed value of the ma-

chinery and equipment at P2 million.

Two months after that, Steelcorp filed an appeal with the Local Board of Assessments Appeals (LBAA) seeking a revision of fair market value assessed by the provincial assessor.

Steelcorp even sought the opinion of the BLGF, which also ruled out on Feb. 2, 2000, that the valuation of the machinery and equipment should be based on the prevailing rate at the time of their acquisition.

Five days after that decision, Steelcorp moved to withdraw its appeal at the LBAA, which the board granted after 13 days.

On Feb. 6, the provincial treasurer issued a warrant of levy on the property.

The order on the provincial treasurer to collect the real property tax liabilities of Steelcorp was also backed by a legal opinion from the provincial legal office and the provincial governor.

Finally, the BLGF decided on Aug. 27 that the assessment made by the provincial assessor had become "final and unappealable."

This prompted the provincial treasurer to issue a 20-day ultimatum on Sept. 17, demanding payment of the unpaid balance of the real property taxes from Steelcorp. *Mei Magsino, Southern Luzon Bureau*

Money release fails to placate GSIS members

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Government Service Insurance System has finally released P145 million in loans and retirement benefits this month to its members in Negros Occidental but this did not stop angry government employees from booing GSIS president Winston Garcia when he spoke before them here on Friday.

Garcia was explaining the cause of the delay for the release of loans and benefits in a forum at the Provincial Administration Center (PAC) here when a loud boo came from the audience.

The GSIS had suspended the processing of loans of government employees for more than four months while it was upgrading its computer system.

Garcia said he knew his unpopular moves to clean up the GSIS have made him its most hated president. "I can feel your anger... but if we continue with the old system you will not have a GSIS in the future," he said.

"If we continue with the old ways just because we want to be popular with our members, in five years from now GSIS will collapse," Garcia said, amid shouts from about 1,000 government employees present.

Joselito Roldan, GSIS Bacolod manager, however, said they had actually released this month P57,304,128.88 in salary loans, P26,822.495 in policy loans, P59,321,328.77 in retirement benefits and P1,669,359.77 in life benefits.

More applications

There are still 2,000 applications in Negros being processed, Roldan said. He said they hoped that within a month, the GSIS will be able to fine-tune its computer system, and applicants able to avail of their loans in a day.

The holding off of the loan processing while the upgrading of the computer system was being undertaken might have caused GSIS members a lot of inconvenience but it was done to maintain the long-term survival of the fund, Garcia said.

"It is better that we be inconvenienced today than suffer a lifetime of regrets," he said.

With computerization, the GSIS would be able to convert into electronic files the hard copies of contribution and loan documents and this would enable the GSIS to collect the P35-billion unremitted premiums from various government agencies and the unbilled P7 billion for the past five years, he said.

"We will also be able to put in order our loan portfolio that has ballooned to P65 billion, 25 percent or P15 billion of which are non-moving, he said.

GSIS members, most of them teachers, staged a picket in front of the PAC to demand the immediate release of their loans and benefits.

"The GSIS has totally lost its credibility to its members. The teachers are not sure you are telling the truth. Make us believe that you are hastening the processing of our loans and benefits," Zenda Ibrado told GSIS officials at a forum.

Investments

Questions were also raised on investments made by the GSIS, including the purchase of the P46-million Juan Luna painting, the alleged commission made by officials, and on when the GSIS will increase retirement benefits.

Garcia explained the need to invest GSIS money so that more could be earned for its members. "If we leave the money in the bank or in government securities, the GSIS will lose because the peso is depreciating and the interest in the bank is only 6 percent," he said.

On the request to increase GSIS pensions by 10 percent, Garcia said the job of the GSIS is to ensure that the pension does not lose its value and is indexed to inflation.

Ardis Jaculino, president of the Bacolod City Government Employees Union, told Garcia that because the GSIS withheld loans for most of the year, a lot of children of government employees have not been able to enroll.

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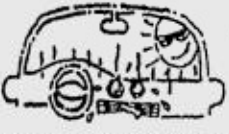
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MASSACHUSETTS

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

A SECURITY guard yesterday was killed when six men armed with 9-mm pistols hit the Metropolitan Rail Transit station in Kamuning, Quezon City, making off with the day's collection of at least six MRT 3 stations. MRT general manager Mario Miranda told the INQUIRER yesterday that the stolen cash could amount to more than P1 million. Security guard Reynaldo Roderos, who was

holding the black bag containing the cash, was shot in the face and killed on the spot. His fellow guard Apollo dela Cruz was seriously wounded. Both guards worked for the Legaspi Security Agency.

SPO4 Reynato Resurrecion of the Central Police District said that the guards, along with Philippine National Bank cashier Nicanor Garcia, went to the MRT station in Kamuning, Quezon City to collect the earnings at 1:45 p.m.

After picking up the cash, the three men stood at the foot of the stairs of the MRT station, waiting for the armored van that would take them to the bank.

Suddenly, four armed men approached the guards and started firing.

The two guards were hit right away while Garcia managed to run, Resurrecion said.

The suspects also fired at the upper floor of the station when they saw members of the Regional Special Action Unit (RSAU), Resurrecion said.

The RSAU men were on the scene to secure the station and inspect the baggage of commuters.

After grabbing the bag that contained the cash, the suspects ran to the side of the Department of Public Works and Highways on the northbound lane of Edsa, where their two cohorts were waiting on two Yamaha Enduro motorcycles.

The robbery took five minutes, Resurrecion said.

Dela Cruz was taken to the East Avenue Medical Center where he remained in critical condition.

Miranda expressed shock over the robbery, which happened in the middle of a busy afternoon and in the middle of a street.

Diaz slay suspect tagged in ambush of Customs man

By Leila Salaverria

THE MAN accused of killing airport official Lilia Diaz has been tagged as one of the suspects in the July ambush of customs collector Felipe Bartolome.

Zaldy C. Dagting, 22, has been charged with murder and three counts of frustrated murder before the Manila Prosecutors Office for the July 25 ambush of Borromeo, according to SPO4 Alfredo Salazar of the Western Police District.

Bartolome's driver, Erwin Melmida, was killed in the attack. Bartolome himself and his two bodyguards were wounded, Salazar said.

Assistant City Prosecutor Winnie Edad yesterday recommended no bail for Dagting.

P03 Ricardo Grata and P01 Raul Declaro, Bartolome's bodyguards, and a third witness, pointed to Dagting as one of the men who opened fire on Bartolome's vehicle on July 25 at the Anda Circle in Manila.

Grata, Declaro and the third witness were present when the suspect was presented to the media yesterday.

Dagting was seen shaking his head during the presentation. Salazar said Dagting had denied the charges leveled against him.

WPD Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said that after Dagting was arrested in Taguig for the killing of Diaz, WPD investigators noticed that the suspect resembled the composite sketch of one of the suspects in the Bartolome ambush.

The three witnesses were then called to identify if Dagting was indeed one of the three gunmen in the ambush.

Woman, boy buried under concrete wall

A WOMAN and her nephew took shelter in their shanty in Quezon City when heavy rains fell on Sunday. But the rains eroded the foundation of a concrete wall, which collapsed on the shanty, burying the 7-month-old boy and his aunt.

Jimmy Macaraeg and his aunt Wilma Casis, 36, were in the shanty with three other relatives, including the baby's mother Marissa, when the 6-foot wall of the Fairlane Elementary School in Barangay West Fairview crumbled at about 7 p.m. Sunday.

At least eight other shanties located at the back of the school, beside the Tullahan River, were hit by the wall during the heavy downpour, said Jolly Dizon, Central Police District Fairview Station commander.

Five other persons were reported injured and were taken to the Quezon City General Hospital.

Police said the wall collapsed because of the heavy downpour and the rising water level of the Tullahan River, softening the structure's foundation.

Early yesterday morning, barangay officials also evacuated about 50 families in the area after authorities noticed the cracks in the remaining portion of the wall, said Jean Rodriguez, an official of Barangay Fairview.

The affected families have been temporarily housed at the Fairlane Elementary School. Rodriguez said the evacuees were in need of blankets, mats and food supplies. Edson Tandoc Jr.

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Ateneo-La Salle showdown today

GAME TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
3 p.m.—Ateneo vs La Salle

By Dennis U. Eroa

NO PRISONER will be taken as bitter rivals Ateneo and La Salle collide today in the mother of all showdowns for the second finals slot in the UAAP men's basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

An overflow crowd is expected when four-time champion La Salle, on the threshold of making Final Four history after forcing the do-or-die clash with a hard-earned 76-72 overtime win last Thursday, battles Ateneo at 3 p.m.

No fourth-ranked team has ever ousted the No. 1 squad since the UAAP started the Final Four format in 1994.

Ateneo, the defending champion, beat La Salle twice in the eliminations, but needs to prevail today to keep its title-retention bid alive.

"This match is going to be a test of character for us," said La Salle mentor Franz Pumaren, a win from steering the Archers to their 10th straight finals appearance.

Pumaren downplayed the ab-



THE LEAGUE is making sure fans and players will behave in today's game.

sence today of Ateneo starting point guard Lewis Tenorio, suspended in the aftermath of the tumultuous La Salle-Ateneo tiff last Thursday.

Pumaren certainly knows what he's talking about. Last year, the spirited Tenorio sat out with a broken hand but the Eagles, tenacious and unforgiving, strung up four straight wins in the eliminations.

"Without Tenorio, Ateneo's going to play hard. The character of my younger players will be tested," said

Pumaren, who made a classic statement by saying that "Maybe, the Lord wants another La Salle-Ateneo game" following the Archers' great escape Thursday.

Marc Cardona has rejoined the Archers' practice and will play for the Archers. But as observers noted, Cardona spells either good or bad things for La Salle.

"Like Tenorio, Cardona is just a single player. It's about playing as a team as the cliché goes,"

Pumaren said.

Despite its failure to join early finalist Far Eastern University in the best-of-three finals, Ateneo remains confident as ever. The Eagles are quartered at the Discovery Suites in Pasig City.

Coach Joel Banal still has Macky Escalona, Chris Tiu and even Wesley Gonzales to bring the ball through the famed La Salle press.

Larry Fonacier and Magnum Membrere should provide firepower and if Rich Alvarez can also rediscover his offensive touch, expect the Eagles to soar.

Bullstrong Jerwin Gaco, Joseph Casio, Junjun Cabatu and Game One hero Joseph Yeo will banner La Salle. Tyrone Tang will man the backcourt.

Meanwhile, Ateneo said that it is abiding by the UAAP board's decision denying its appeal for a replay of the controversial match last Thursday.

"We also advised our players and coaching staff to refrain from making further statements on the issue," said team manager Simon Mossesgeld.

PBA ready to lift Peña suspension

By June Navarro

IT'S just a matter of days before Dorian Peña dons the San Miguel Beer jersey again.

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala confirmed this over the weekend, saying the 6-foot-8 Peña would be reinstated within the week after serving more than four months of suspension for failing a drug test.

"He'll (Peña) be reinstated anytime this week. He has already complied with the requirements and I don't see any reason to prolong his agony," Eala told the INQUIRER after the Shell-Barangay Ginebra encounter in Calape, Bohol, Saturday.

Meanwhile, the PBA approved new guidelines on player-agents and the eligibility of Fil-foreign cagers wishing to join the league next season.

Chair Jun Cabalan said Fil-foreign players should see action in local tournaments for at least a year before seeking entry in the PBA through the pro draft.

The agents, Pabalán added, would now need an accreditation from the PBA Commissioner's Office before they can represent any PBA player in contract negotiations with clubs.

Peña was suspended along with Barangay Ginebra's Jun Limpot and Alex Crisano; Red Bull's Jimwell Torion and Davonn Harp; Norman Gonzales, Noli Locsin and Long David of Talk 'N Text; and Ryan Bernardo of FedEx for flunking either the random or

mandatory drug tests of the PBA.

Except for Peña and David, the rest have been reactivated by the PBA Commissioner's Office. Eala said David's appeal is up for review.

Peña, a second-time offender after also testing positive for marijuana use at the start of season, has been receiving no salary from San Miguel since May 14.

"It's affecting his family's source of livelihood. The longer Dorian's case drags on, the longer his family suffers," said San Miguel Beer team manager Robert Non.

Non stressed that San Miguel has strictly adhered to the PBA policy on players who got caught in the drug imbroglio.

Peña said he's making both ends meet by selling locally made basketball jerseys in the United States.

"I'm getting the jerseys here for less than P100. I ship them in the States and sell them for at least \$100," said Peña.

Non said San Miguel had already appealed Peña's case twice last month after submitting the necessary requirements (rehabilitation and counseling certificates, medical tests results etc.) for reinstatement.

"Dorian went through a total of 10 tests from a variety of testing clinics after he flunked the drug test and the results were all negative," said Non.



PEÑA, seen here working against Asi Taulava of Talk 'N Text, could be playing for the Beermen again in no time at all.

AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

Doves eye UCAA crown vs Jaguars

GAME TODAY
1 p.m.—St. Francis vs PSBA

THE ST. FRANCIS of Assisi Doves shoot for the Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (UCAA) basketball championship today against the Philippine School of Business Administration Jaguars at the Rizal Coliseum.

An impressive 95-60 winner in Game 1 of the playoffs, the Doves are heavily favored to wrap up the

best-of-three title series in their 1 p.m. rematch with the Jaguars.

Veteran Raniel de Ocampo, Ervin Sotto and Al Vergara hope to give the Doves—who won the National Intercollegiate championship in March over the UE Warriors—their third straight title this year on their last season with St. Francis.

To force a rubber match, PSBA needs an outstanding game from Al Federico, MC Caceres and Jonathan Tarronas.

Banal bailout

IF ATENEO doesn't watch it, today's Game 2 could be a photocopy of Game 1.

It's like this.

Ateneo's defeat in Game 1 was its own undoing; in that game, it relaxed after it had sped ahead in the second half. Overconfidence did the Eagles in.

It was almost obvious De La Salle would lose Game 1 as can be gleaned from Ateneo's sustained firepower almost three fourths of the way. However, after De La Salle had moved dangerously close, Ateneo panicked. When De La Salle finally showed signs it could win, Ateneo played a scared game. That was the Eagles' Waterloo.

How many times has it been said that most contests are won in the mind, not on the battlefield? The battlefield is but the scene of a triumph; the ingredients of victory get sautéed in the mind.

Franz Pumaren has mastered the art of luring you to his booby trap like one wizened to the ways of jungle survival. He isn't a four-time De La Salle champion coach for nothing. His line that his Archers remain the underdogs today is but another ruse.

On paper, it's true De La Salle has the inferior lineup. But as I said, whenever De La Salle and Ateneo clash, everything evens up. The advantage of one over the other suddenly evaporates into thin air.

Enough that the UAAP board had made a fool of itself. Again. It refused to right the wrong even if the wrong was very obvious. It acknowledged the wrong and yet it refused to

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



right it. Isn't that stupid?

The near free-for-all marred Game 1 but remedies subsequently embraced by the board utterly lacked consistency, if not decency. Just one example: They wrongly threw out Eagle Magnum Membrere and yet, when the mistake was discovered, they did not rectify their mistake. (The UAAP had actually corrected this by sacking Badjie del Rosario instead.)

What is the use of admitting a mistake if it doesn't get rectified?

Why be afraid to undo what has been done?

Aren't we supposed to be the most intelligent schools in the land, if not the most gentle of men among basketball people running a school league?

Ah, the game children play. Adults love to spoil it.

But such is the history of stupidity in this league and you wonder why, despite that, it has survived extinction.

For a while there, Joe Lipa gave me a high when he offered to resign as tournament commissioner. He did by way of showing his sin-

cerity, if not impartiality (he was Ateneo's coach before Joel Banal took over last year), in not becoming a hindrance to the board's decision to reject Ateneo's appeal to replay the controversial remaining 90 seconds or so of the game, among other rulings arrived at on Sunday. But when he relented after the board had rejected his resignation, my heart sank. If I were him, I would have stuck to it. That would have made him 10 feet tall.

Oh, well, Joe Lipa is not me. We think differently most of the time but that does not mean we don't like each other. Joe Lipa is one enigma that baffles me no end, a character as complex as the Los Angeles freeway.

Oh well, such is life.

In the meantime, let's all sit back, relax and enjoy the game.

Yes, Franz Pumaren is right. Ateneo will remain the favorite today despite the absence of LA Tenorio. Even without LA in Game 1, Ateneo could have still won if only Eagle coach Joel Banal did not play into De La Salle's running game.

And yes, Franz knows his Joseph Yeo will not be as effective today as he was in Game 1 simply because Yeo, who fired a game-high 31 points on Thursday, will be a marked man. That's exactly Franz's biggest headache today.

Still, Franz Pumaren, compared to Joel Banal, has nothing to lose if he loses today. Not even his pride, fellas. He was expected to lose as early as last Thursday yet.

But for Joel Banal, it's different. Today, his career is on the line.

SPORTSWATCH

Suarez 13th after first block

THE PHILIPPINES' CJ Suarez ranked 13th after five games in the men's division of the AMF Bowling World Cup at the Planeta Sipango bowling lanes in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Suarez rolled 1078 pins for an average of 215.60 in the event being led by United Arab Emirates' Mohammed Khalifa Al Qubaisi. Qubaisi, the 1998 World Cup champion, downed 1121 pins for an average of 224.20. The top 24 after 20 games will advance to the next phase in both the men's and women's divisions.

Reyes vying in World Pool League

FILIPINO ace Efrén "Bata" Reyes will be seeking a grand slam in the 6th World Pool League slated Oct. 24-26 in Poland. The 49-year-old Reyes, a billiards Hall of Famer, won the 2001 and 2002 editions of the event, but is up against tougher opponents for the \$15,000 top purse this time. Heading Reyes' challengers are reigning world titlist Thorsten Hohmann of Germany, who is making his debut in the tournament, and current European champion Oliver Ortmann, also of Germany. The other competitors in the exclusive six-player event are Asian No. 2 Hui-kai Hsia of Taiwan, World Pool Masters champion Tony Drago of Malta and American Rodney Morris, who are all first-timers in the WPL.

Deposoy, pal top beach volley

POWER-PLAYING Gretchel Deposoy and Aileen Ybafiez subdued Lou Maranon and Gamela Septo to rule the third leg of the 2003 Petron Ladies' Beach Volleyball Tournament at the La Salle Greenhills sand courts recently. Deposoy and Ybafiez, both former Palarong Pambansa standouts now playing for Philippine Navy, capitalized on a pair of front-line errors by their foes to move ahead and post a 21-17, 21-17 triumph. Deposoy and Ybafiez, both 29, earned the P10,000 top purse after reaching the final round at the expense of Evelyn Reyes and Sherry Ann Garcia, 21-4, in the semifinals of the tournament.

Ateneo de Davao cage champ

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Ateneo de Davao kept its youth cage supremacy in Mindanao last Saturday by bagging the Milo Best SBP (Small Basketeers Philippines) and Passerelle regional titles at the Xavier University gym here. The Davao boys tripped host Xavier, 56-48, in the SBP finals and then crushed Western Mindanao State University, 68-43, in the Passerelle division. WMSU and Xavier hurdled their respective rivals to finish third in the SBP and Passerelle levels, respectively. WMSU nipped Notre Dame, 62-60, while Xavier whipped another Notre Dame squad, 87-73. With their twin wins, the Ateneans advanced to the national finals of the tourney organized by this year's Olympism awarded Best Center and sponsored by Milo.

PSC Fast Tract-It program

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission completed the sixth and final leg of its Fast Tract-It (Training the Trainers, Classification Seminar and Talent Identification Technical Management) program for differently abled athletes in Cebu City recently. The Cebu leg, which was held at the Abellana Sports Complex, was attended by 110 coaches, trainers and differently abled athletes from Cebu province, Cebu City, Iloilo City, Dumaguete City, Bacolod City, Iligan City and Cagayan de Oro City. The program is the brainchild of the Office of Commissioner Michael Barredo.

Sport truck, custom car show

THE 2003 Caltex Delo Sport Truck and Custom Car Show will host a series of motor racing seminars, free of charge, to exhibition visitors from Oct. 1-5 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B. The Landcruiser Club of the Philippines will hold a seminar for those who are into off-road vehicles on Oct. 2 at 2:30 p.m. and Oct. 3, at 7 p.m. The seminar is called "Hit the Trail-Trips on How to Set Up your 4 x 4 and the Driving Techniques for Different Terrains." Race Motorsports Club will conduct a seminar on the "Basics in Slalom Racing" scheduled on Oct. 2 at 4 p.m. and Oct. 4 at 2:30 p.m. A seminar by JP Tuason entitled "Why go to a Racing School" is set on Oct. 3 at 4 p.m. Formula 2000 racer Mike Potenciano will be the guest speaker for two seminars on "Advance Racing Techniques" on Oct. 3 and Oct. 5 on "How to get Started in Motorsports Through Karting."

4-stag derby at Roligon

ROLIGON Mega Cockpit's BMJ Mico 4-Stag Derby sizzles at 7 p.m. today with 67 fights slated. At stake is P300,000 while entry fee is P8,800. Boy Gamilla of Malabon and Mimi Itchon of Laguna are the hosts. For details, call 833-2275 and 833-1638. Meanwhile, Rolly Ligon presents the Apordabol Na, Incedibol Pa 5-cock derby on Nov. 29, Dec. 2, 4 and 6. For a low entry fee of P8,800, Ligon guarantees the P2.25 million prize. An imported Nissan Serena await the Fastest Kill champion.



BEAM-ZEST-O RUN BACKER. Beam Toothpaste GM Baby Yao (right) signs an agreement with Nelson Macaraig, of the Media Runners and Sports Promotions and Jonel Promotions, ensuring the company's backing for the nationwide staging of the Beam-Zest-O Patakong Pinoy, which kicks off with the Oct. 5 Manila run at the Rajah Sulaiman Park in Malate.



THE HOMI noodles team, composed of Alpha Phi Omega international fraternity paddlers, emerged as the 10-man event champion in the recent 17th edition of the Regatta ng Peñafrancia boat racing competitions in the Naga river. Team members are shown with Minerjon Capua, regional sales manager-NCR, and Don Pandes, regional sales manager of RFM President Enterprises Corp., the makers of Ho-Mi noodles. At right is the chair of the Regatta Association of Bicol Inc., Ruben Brazal.

Tanpincos rule Samsung golf tour leg in Bacolod

JR TANPINCO showed why he's among Sugarlandia's best with a couple of sub-par rounds that won him the championship of the fourth leg of the Samsung Amateur Tour held over the weekend in Bacolod.

Tanpincos fired a one-under 70 in the first day, then came back even hotter the next day with a three-under 68 for a 138 total at the Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club course he calls home and a two-shot win over Joe Isedenio (73-67).

JR's sister Anya made it a family party when she scored 77-73—150 to win by seven over Gaby Monfort in Ladies Class A, with jungolf standout Mia Piccio third at 167.

Multi-titled senior player Alex Montelibano bested his younger rivals in Class A, Tim Zulueta took Class B honors via a playoff and Carlos Magno came from behind to clinch Class C by a mere stroke.

Montelibano hit the shot of the tournament—a 112-yard third shot on the par-4 15th that found the hole for a birdie—just as first-day rival Jared Sanson was staging a rally. Alex, shooting 75-70, won by one over Jared, who went 70-76.

Maita Lustre, niece of the legendary Golem Silverio, was the runaway winner in Ladies Class B, her 75-84—159 good for a 16-shot win over Cynthia Lapay.

Record 254 wins it for hot Armour

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—Tommy Armour III set the PGA Tour 72-hole record as he coasted to victory in the \$3.5 million Texas Open by a seven-shot margin on Sunday.

Armour fired a five-under-par 65 to finish 26 under on 254, two shots better than Mark Calcavecchia's 256 aggregate at the 2001 Phoenix Open.

Defending champion Loren Roberts carded an eight-under 62 for a total of 261, his winning score in 2002. But this year that was only good enough for a second-place tie with Bob Tway (64).

Duffy Waldorf, who early in the round had cut Armour's six-stroke overnight lead to three, finished fourth on 262.

Armour, the grandson of three-time major champion Tommy Armour of Scotland, had won only once before on



ARMOUR: 13-year drought ends. AP

tour, at the 1990 Phoenix Open.

Sunday's victory was worth \$630,000 to the 43-year-old.

Armour also became the fourth suc-

cessive over-40 to win on the circuit, following Tway, Vijay Singh and J.L. Lewis.

In St. Andrews, Scotland, Englishman Lee Westwood held on to win the Dunhill Links Championship by one stroke Sunday over Ernie Els despite a birdie-birdie finish from the world No. 2.

Westwood finished with a 5-under 67 after Els shot an 8-under 64.

Westwood racked up five birdies in six holes in the middle of his round for his second victory in four weeks.

The Englishman put himself in position to win with a course-record 62, spiked by a pair of eagles, in Saturday's third round.

Westwood, who won the German Masters four weeks ago for his first victory in three years, finished on 21-under 267 to win US\$800,000. Reuters, AP

Splendid Sorenstam rides 2 eagles to victory

PORTLAND, Oregon—Doing something unprecedented is nothing new for Annika Sorenstam, but she almost outdid herself Sunday.

Sorenstam came within inches of recording three straight eagles on the front nine, then birdied the 17th hole to defend her title with a one-stroke victory at the LPGA Safeway Classic.

The 10-inch birdie putt capped a six-under-par 66 for Sorenstam, whose 54-hole total of 15-under 201 was one shot better than Hall of Famer Beth Daniel and three in front of Cristie Kerr.

"Obviously, it feels wonderful," said Sorenstam, who leads the LPGA with five wins and 1,695,006 dollars in earnings. "To finish 15-under in a three-day (tournament), that takes a lot of birdies, obviously. And today was a little bit of a roller-coaster ride."

Most of the thrills came on the front nine. The Swedish superstar missed a six-foot eagle putt at the 489-yard fifth hole, then made back-to-back eagles. She holed a sand wedge from 102 yards at the par-four sixth and rolled in a 40-foot putt at the seventh. AFP

RP rowers bag 3 medals

GUANGDONG, China—Filipino rowers, led by Asian Games veterans Nestor Cordova and Alvin Amposta, bagged three medals in the Asian rowing championships which ended here Sunday.

Cordova and Amposta, silver winners in last year's Busan Asian Games, won the silver behind the Chinese in the lightweight coxless pair event.

Cordova and Amposta copped their second medal in the 14-country event—a bronze in the lightweight double scull race where they finished behind China and North Korea.

Jose Rodriguez wound up third in the lightweight men's singles scull behind a Vietnamese and a Chinese.

SPORTS BITS

First black net star dies

EAST ORANGE, New Jersey—Tennis champion Althea Gibson, the first black to win Wimbledon and the US Championships, died Sunday. She was 76. Gibson had been in poor health for years and passed away at East Orange General Hospital, according to Dar-ryl Jeffries, a spokesman for the city of East Orange. A big hitter with an awesome serve, Gibson became the first black person to play at the US Championships in 1950 and Wimbledon a year later. She won the French Championship in 1956, earned back-to-back titles at Wimbledon and the US Open in 1957-58 and added three doubles crowns at Wimbledon from 1956-58. Gibson fought through the color line when segregation was the rule, paving the way for other black champions, like the late Arthur Ashe and Venus and Serena Williams. AFP



GIBSON

Vigan shootfest fires off

VIGAN CITY—At least 60 world-caliber trap and sheet shooters from 11 countries arrived yesterday in this city to vie for medals in the Presidential Clay Shooting Championship at the Baluarte shooting range that opens today. Among the competitors are Brunei's Prince Sufril Bolkiah and Southeast Asian Games-bound Philippine team members Jethro Dionisio (trap), Eric Ang (trap) and Jaime Racio (trap). Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. is guest of honor during the opening ceremonies of the five-day shootfest hosted by former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson. Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Routs in Coke football

NAGA CITY—Lopsided victories by Vinzons Pilot High School (Main), Goa National High, Camarines Sur National High and San Juan High/Libmanan marked the start Saturday of the Camarines Sur Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football tournament here and in Daet. The Vinzons boys overwhelmed Talabotat High, 17-0; Goa blasted Mangayan High, 15-0; CSNHS ripped Curry High, 10-0; and San Juan clobbered Don Bosco, 7-0. In other matches, San Vicente nosed out Moreno Integrated, 3-2, and Vinzons High (Annex), 2-0; Pasacao ripped Tigaon, 1-0; and Vicente L. Basit Memorial High edged Vinzons Pilot School (Annex), 2-1.



SCHUMACHER: A point shy of sixth title. REUTERS

Schumacher on threshold of greatness

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana—Michael Schumacher is a single point from a sixth Formula One world crown which would guarantee him his place as the most successful driver in motor racing history.

His 70th career victory in Sunday's United States Grand Prix left Finnish rival Kimi Raikkonen a mountain to climb in the Japan Grand Prix at Suzuka in a fortnight.

Schumacher holds a 92-83 lead over the 23-year-old Raikkonen, who needs to win and hope the German does not score in the final race of the season to prevent the Ferrari ace from overtaking Juan Manuel Fangio's record.

Sunday's race also saw the end of Juan Pablo Montoya's title assault as the Colombian finished sixth in his Williams after incurring a drive-through penalty for pushing Rubens Barrichello's Ferrari off the circuit as they jostled for position in the early stages. Montoya has 82 points.

Williams also lost their lead in the constructors' championship, dropping three points behind Ferrari before the season-ending Japan Grand Prix. AFP

China, Russia, US, Sweden gain q'finals

PORTLAND, Oregon—Ghana gave China an assist Sunday night.

Ghana beat Australia, 2-1, clinching China a spot in the Women's World Cup quarterfinals even before China took the field for its match against Russia.

China then defeated Russia, 1-0, to claim a first-place finish in Group D play.

In Columbus, Ohio, the United States advanced to the quarterfinals after beating North Korea, 3-0, to maintain its perfect record and take first place in Group A. Sweden, which topped Nigeria 3-0, also reached the next round.

China, which advanced despite scoring just three goals so far, now plays Canada on Thursday at PGE Park, while Russia, the runner-up in group D, will play Germany. Russia (2-1) had clinched a spot in the quarterfinals with a 3-0 win over Ghana on Thursday. AP



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			DS AT	725,000	668,000
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2 BASIC	2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	2 WILD BUTTERFLY	2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	2 LEGALLY BLONDE 2	2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 INNER SENSES	3 FREDDY VS. JASON	3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	3 WILD BUTTERFLY	3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	3 LEGALLY BLONDE 2	3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	4 WILD BUTTERFLY	4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	4 LEGALLY BLONDE 2	4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
5 PEOPLE I KNOW	5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	5 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	5 WILD BUTTERFLY	5 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	5 LEGALLY BLONDE 2	5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
6 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE	6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	6 WILD BUTTERFLY	6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	6 LEGALLY BLONDE 2	6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
7 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	7 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	7 WILD BUTTERFLY	7 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	7 LEGALLY BLONDE 2	7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
8 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	8 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	8 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	8 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	8 WILD BUTTERFLY	8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	8 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	8 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	8 LEGALLY BLONDE 2	8 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	8 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	8 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
9 MEDALLION	9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	9 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	9 WILD BUTTERFLY	9 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	9 LEGALLY BLONDE 2	9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
10 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN	10 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	10 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	10 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	10 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	10 WILD BUTTERFLY	10 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	10 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	10 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	10 LEGALLY BLONDE 2	10 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	10 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	10 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

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6 BASIC	6 ASBOOBS	6 FREAKY FRIDAY
7 FREDDY VS. JASON	7 THE MEDALLION	7 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	8 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS	8 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
	9 BASIC	9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
	10 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE	10 THE MEDALLION
		11 INNER SENSES
		12 FIRST TIME

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2 LEGALLY BLONDE 2	2 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE	2 FREDDY VS. JASON
3 DADDY DAY CARE	3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	3 FIRST TIME
4 S.W.A.T.	4 FREAKY FRIDAY	4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN	5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	
6 FIRST TIME	6 THE MEDALLION	
7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	
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4 FREAKY FRIDAY	4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	4 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
5 FREDDY VS. JASON	5 FREDDY VS. JASON	5 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	6 S.W.A.T.
7 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE	7 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS	7 RESERVED
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1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	1 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	1 THE MEDALLION
2 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE	2 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS	2 FREAKY FRIDAY
3 FREDDY VS. JASON	3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN	3 BASIC
4 FIRST TIME	4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
5 FREAKY FRIDAY	5 FREDDY VS. JASON	5 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	6 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
	7 S.W.A.T.	7 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
	8 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE	8 FIRST TIME
	9 FIRST TIME	9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
		10 FREDDY VS. JASON
		11 INNER SENSES
		12 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

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2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	2 DADDY DAY CARE	2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	3 DADDY DAY CARE
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2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	5 FREDDY VS. JASON 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	6 BASIC 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
7 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	9 THE MEDALLION 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50
8 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	10 INNER SENSES 12:05, 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00

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2 FREDDY VS. JASON	10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
3 THE MEDALLION	10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4 FREAKY FRIDAY	10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
5 INNER SENSES	11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:05
6 BASIC	10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
7 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

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1 FREDDY VS. JASON
2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
5 FREAKY FRIDAY
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7 THE MEDALLION
8 1ST TIME

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1 THE MEDALLION
2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 FREDDY VS. JASON
4 1ST TIME
5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
6 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
7 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
8 FREAKY FRIDAY

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5 THE MEDALLION

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PEOPLE I KNOW R18 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE PG13 2:20, 4:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40	FREAKY FRIDAY PG13 11:45, 1:50, 3:55, 6:00, 8:05, 10:10

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Complaints mar popularity of 'stellar dramas'

ON THURSDAY nights, both "Maalaala Mo Kaya?" and "Magpakailanman" have been going to town with dramas based on the real-life travails of show biz stars. The unique focus has clicked with viewers, so the two competing drama anthology programs are lining up more scripts on stars' actual dramatic upheavals.

The special focus clicks because Filipino fans get personally interested and involved with their screen idols' lives and experiences, both good and bad.

There's also the feeling that, if "blessed" people like stars have to cope with crises in their private lives, then viewers' own problems aren't all that bad.

We can call this the "leveler" effect, and it's proving to be a consolation for viewers who like watching shows along these lines.

Another factor boosting the

format's popularity is its gossip and scandal element, which local fans have been programmed to like, due to the cynical "a star is public property" principle operative in these parts.

For these and other reasons, the "star dramas" have been doing well on Channel 2 and 7's Thursday night shows.

Of late, however, a problem has been cropping up that threatens to kill or at least maim this goose that's been laying all those golden ratings eggs.

After the episode based on a sexy starlet's life was shown, a talent scout who was depicted as having exploited her when she was in her early teens complained that he was unfairly accused.

Later, after Arnel Ignacio's episode, a former lover accosted him, complaining that the way he was depicted was embarrassing to him, especially now that

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



he had a family.

Complaints like these make the shows more controversial, therefore generating more media mileage. On the whole, however, their effect is negative, because viewers may think that some facts are finessed for greater dramatic or controversial impact. The possible legal consequences of such complaints also can't be pooh-poohed away.

It would be better, therefore, if controversial elements in stars' lives could be more rigorously researched and more objectively presented. It would also help if real names weren't used, to

avoid legal repercussions.

Tadao Sato

INTERESTED film buffs shouldn't miss Eiga Sai 2003's lecture forum at 3 p.m. today at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Dream Theater. The special guest is top Japanese film critic, writer and educator Tadao Sato, who will speak on the topic, "How Asian Cinema is Perceived by the World."

Mr. Sato knows whereof he speaks because he has pioneered in discovering and showcasing Asian movies at the annual Focus on Asia-Fukuoka International Film Festival, of which he is the director general. As president of the Japan Academy of Moving Images since 1996, he is also involved in fostering talent for the Japanese film industry.

We have had the pleasure of exchanging views with Mr. Sato

in Fukuoka and Tokyo, and have learned a lot from him. Thus, we urge you to attend his lecture forum, so you can benefit from his insights as well.

Mr. Sato had his first collection of film critiques published in 1956. Since then, he has written a staggering total of 140 books. His major works on Japanese film include "The World of Akira Kurosawa," "The Art of Yasujiro Ozu" and the four-volume "History of Japanese Films."

His books on Asian movies include "Asian Films," "Shanghai Kinema Report (History of Chinese Films)" and "The Spirit of Korean Film."

In 1989, he and his wife won the Kawakita Prize for their contributions to international exchange through film. Mr. Sato was also awarded the Medal with Purple Ribbon in 1996 for his contributions to Japanese films, and the Korean Cultural Medal in

2002 for introducing Korean films extensively throughout the world.

Piolo sings

PIOLO Pascual will be flying home from Milan, Italy, where he's shooting a film with Claudine Barretto, to sing in a concert at the Casino Filipino Mimosas with Rica Peralejo and Angelica Jones.

Call 413-9163. As a recording artist, Piolo has released a new single, "Ikaw ang Buhay Ko," taken from his self-titled debut album.

The single includes a music video (directed by Marvin Agustin) in which Piolo pays tribute to the people who matter most to him, and those responsible for his success.

Also available are Piolo Videoke and Piolo Minus One, which encourage fans to sing along with their idol.

It's a crime to make films like 'Hollywood Homicide'

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

WHEN the cameo roles are the best things you could say about a film, you know the production is in trouble.

Such is the case with "Hollywood Homicide," a lifeless cop buddy comedy that offers occasional laughs but, for the most part, is a tedious endeavor. Yes, the cameos are its only saving graces.

Every time you're interest sags—and there are many such times during the course of the movie—somebody familiar enters a scene to make it perk up again, if only for a while. Among them are recent Manila visitor (and may I say "our very own") Lou Diamond Phillips as a cop posing as a transvestite prostitute, Martin Landau as a film producer past his prime, Smokey Robinson as a cab driver and Gladys Knight as an overprotective mother of a fugitive.

They are like oases in this desert of dullness but their presence only underscores the fact that "Hollywood Homicide" needed to beef up its already stellar cast to make up for the movie's lack of artistic impulses.

Jobs as mistresses

Okay, "Hollywood Homicide" isn't a complete bust. You get to see Harrison Ford, who was once upon a time the coolest man on the planet, team up with Josh Hartnett, billed rightly or wrongly as the current Holly-



ICON AND HEARTTHROB. Ford and Hartnett add star power to this dull movie.

wood heartthrob.

They play quirky cops for sure. Ford's Joe Gavilan is a three-time divorcee who moonlights as a real estate agent just so he can pay his alimonies. He's not any good at it, though, and is so desperate he even tries to broker deals with potential suspects and witnesses while he interrogates them. Hartnett's KC Calden, Joe's partner, is an aspiring actor and a part-time yoga instructor who beds most of his gorgeous students even as he keeps mixing up their names. Now we've seen movies about cops being married to their jobs. Well, these ones have side jobs that are like engaging mistresses. And they have side issues as

well. Joe is being investigated by his nemesis in Internal Affairs (played by Bruce Greenwood) for certain alleged irregularities, while KC is haunted by the memory of his cop father who was killed in a routine drug bust.

With all the baggage they're carrying, one wouldn't exactly call them Hollywood police's finest. But just the same, they're asked to investigate the murder of a rap group at a dance club that, as it turns out, further complicates their already complicated lives.

Stars on autopilot

Ford and Hartnett's characters and their predicaments are in-

deed good for a few laughs. Honestly, if you're the type who's satisfied with, say, about 10 chuckles in a span of 90 minutes, then this movie is for you.

But if you're looking for spontaneity, energy and consistent humor, then this is not for you. This one exists purely on star power, and the stars, unfortunately, are on autopilot.

It's hard for me to say this, really, when I have the strongest admiration for Ford. Han Solo, Indiana Jones and, later, Jack Ryan have been my cinematic idols. I can even forgive Ford for his villainous turn in "What Lies Beneath" and his atrociously fake Russian accent in "K-11: The Wid-

owmaker." Call it minor bumps in an otherwise illustrious career. Besides, perhaps he means well in trying to venture into unfamiliar roles. Which is why I wouldn't mind watching him make a go at being a comedian.

But he really should have chosen a much better vehicle to do that than "Hollywood Homicide." It's disturbing to see such an inert, haphazard piece of business reach the screen. The cop buddy comedy is such a familiar genre you would think it would be easy to get all its standard elements together without necessarily making the movie an exercise in compromise.

No screen chemistry

Formula isn't necessarily bad when the movie is genuinely entertaining. So how could "Hollywood Homicide" meander down such a well-trodden path and not get it right?

The trick, of course, is to have a couple of cops who form an odd couple. The movie will sink or swim on the quality of their chemistry. Their off-center relationship is the heart and soul of the movie and provides it with the wild energy and substance for its humor.

Ford and Hartnett, however, share no chemistry on screen. There's no witty repartee between them, no edgy give and take while providing some semblance (and just some) of depth for the characters they portray. There are no acting moments that rise above the level of posing.

Perhaps it's not so much the fault of the actors as it is of the writers, whose screenplay epitomizes the creative bankruptcy

and contempt for the audience that infects so many of the star vehicles we see today. What, are we supposed to pay attention to these guys just because of their Hollywood pedigrees? Do they think the film could exist merely on the charm of its two stars?

Mindless moviemaking

And what about a villain? If you want the genre to succeed, you need a well-acted, malevolently conceived bad guy, one who exists primarily to give the heroes a purpose in their lives. "Hollywood Homicide" has three villains but Joe and KC's passion lies somewhere else other than foiling them, because they're so preoccupied with their side jobs. So that big production in the end, with the recycled car and foot chases and the protracted shoot-out, seems to just be there because it has to be there, just because it's part of the formula. It lacks the secret weapon, which is conviction on the part of the heroes.

I walked into "Hollywood Homicide" with a certain level of pragmatism. I didn't mind seeing just another example of mindless, bubblegum moviemaking. If it's by the numbers, I really didn't care. As long as it's done right and as long as it's fun, it would have fulfilled its promise. But the movie just isn't fun.

There's a scene where Ford's character says, "I'm trying to remember how this all used to be glamorous." Joe was talking about his job and tinseltown, but the line says as much about the movie and its genre. We're trying to remember, too. "Hollywood Homicide" just doesn't help.

Aria ready to soar on the wings of music

WHAT is an aria?

An aria is an elaborate, often lengthy solo song with instrumental accompaniment. Arias are found in operatic works.

Aria is also short for Mary Ann Llanes Togonon, who is determined to make waves in the music scene.

Those familiar with the TV videoke singing contest, "Sing-Galing," might recognize the name, for it is through this contest that Aria broke into the music scene. When "Sing-Galing" went to the AMA Computer University in October 2002 during the show's campus tour, Aria won the weekly championship and defended it for a record 21 weeks, which remains unbeaten.

Aria, 20, is the third of the four children of Evelyn and Raymundo. Her dad, who can play practically all kinds of musical instruments, is a music teacher in UCGS, Mindanao. Her mom was a singer in a band, and is now a grade school teacher in their town.

Though Aria enrolled in Ryan Cayabyab's music school, but attended only one session out of eight, most of her musical training was at home with her mom and dad as voice coaches. In Butuan City, she won a Donna Cruz sing-alike contest.



ARIA

"If I'd be given a chance to record an album, I would definitely want it to be a mixture of R&B, ballads and a few fast numbers," Aria says.

She is in second year in Mass Communication at AMA Computer University.

She sings, and even cracks jokes, as a host at Klownz Comedy Bar at the Araneta Center every Monday. She also sings at the Manila Pavilion every Friday.

Aria is preparing for her first major show, "Aria," at the AFP Theater on Oct. 30. She will be performing with Wency Cornejo and the boy band Jeremiah.

Jen Pangilinan, Contributor

Jessa 'Reborn' and singing again

JESSA Zaragoza has got almost everything a woman could want: a happy marriage, a beautiful daughter and a great career. Indeed, it seems she just couldn't ask for more.

Since giving birth to daughter Janelle Amanda, or Jayda for short, Jessa has been devoting most of her time to being a wife

SHOW TIME

and mother. Now, she's raring to get back to doing what it is she does best—singing.

Jessa's ABS-CBN family will welcome her back in a party and launch on "ASAP Mania" on Sunday, Oct. 5. This will be followed by a comeback concert entitled "Reborn" on Oct. 22 at Ratsky Tomas Morato at 8 p.m.

'This is Me,' Krystine, back at Hard Rock Café

THEY clamored for more. And so, Krystine Valdez will be performing again at the Hard Rock Café in Makati on Oct. 2, 9 p.m., in a show called "This is Me."

Last July 28, Krystine had a birthday show at Hard Rock. She mesmerized the audience with her rendition of Lara Fabian's "Broken Vow" and then roused the audience with the J. Lo dance number "Let's Get Loud."

Paolo Montalban joined her onstage and together they sang "All I Ask of You," after which he planted a big kiss on Krystine's

cheek and also kissed her hands twice.

Willy Nepomuceno opened the show with his impersonation, while Rico J. Puno made the audience laugh with his very naughty antics.

On Oct. 2, Krystine promises another show, together with her guests Bobby and Buboy Gomez, Nonoy Zúñiga and Rico J.

"This is Me" is presented by Everygreen and Mercury Freight.

Musical direction is by Bobby Gomez and concept by Cecille Marcaida.

'Hot Babe' search nears grand finals

AFTER an audition that attracted more than 200 young women, the search for "The Hottest & Wildest Babe" continues, with the final audition to be held Oct. 4 at the Gemstar Talent Search office at The Creekside on Amorsolo Street in Makati City, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Produced by Uptrend Concepts Management Corp., the search is a multilevel bikini open contest for women who are at least 18

years old, at least 5-foot-2, and have the confidence and the body of a "hot babe."

Those who pass the auditions will qualify to compete in the last elimination round to be held on Oct. 10 in six KTV bars in Metro Manila—Pegasus, Heartbeat, Pharaoh, Skytrek, Genie and Love Boat.

So far, 39 have qualified for the semifinals, to be held in November in the same KTV venues.

with special guests Ogie Alcasid and Michael "Josh" Santana.

Jessa, a multiplatinum recording artist and who was in the ABS-CBN teleserye "Bituin," will be singing her hits, plus cuts from "Kahit Na Ilang Umaga," her latest album from Star Records.

Star Records has just released Jessa's newest single, "Sana Magbuhat Pa ng Una."



KRISTINE VALDEZ

A total of 12 finalists will be picked to compete in the grand finals to be staged in December at the NBC Tent at the Bonifacio Global City. The winner takes home a cash prize of P150,000.

The semifinalists will be featured in a KTV bar tour: Skytrek on Oct. 3, Pegasus and Heartbeat on Oct. 7, Love Boat on Oct. 17 and Pharaoh on Oct. 24.

KBP to GMA 7: Don't let rulings taint your view

By Abigail L. Ho

THE BROADCASTING industry organization Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) is urging GMA Network Inc. to not let unfavorable decisions by the KBP board to taint the network's view of the organization.

The KBP also urged GMA to come back as a KBP member.

In a statement issued over the weekend, KBP noted that GMA, the country's second largest broadcasting firm, seemed to have withdrawn its membership from the organization not because of "concerns about the present thrusts and actions of the KBP," as the network had earlier said, but because of allegedly unfair rulings and attacks on the network.

These include the one-year suspension of GMA's membership privileges in KBP after network talent Rosanna Roces committed what were deemed vulgar acts on national television; a ruling by the KBP Standards Authority that

GMA had "overloaded" with commercials its top-rating shows in the last week of June; and "unfair attacks" by rival ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. against GMA news anchor Mike Enriquez.

"Indeed, it is unfortunate that the actions of the KBP in the above cases have been interpreted by GMA as biased," said the KBP statement. "The handling of these cases is in accordance with established rules and procedures in the organization, rules and procedures which insure that members are accorded due process. Such process should be allowed to run its full course."

But GMA chair, president and chief executive Felipe Gozon said in a speech before advertisers and ad agencies that the KBP had given the network unfair treatment, while its fiercest rival, ABS-CBN, committed similar offenses without being meted out due punishment.

Gozon said ABS-CBN host Willie Revillame as well as some of the network's other talents committed an offense sim-

ilar to Osang's, yet the Lopez-owned network was not even investigated.

The KBP said an investigation could only be conducted if complaints were raised by viewers and listeners through letters or phone calls or by the KBP staff through program monitoring.

On the commercial overloading issue, Gozon said KBP seemed to have favored ABS-CBN when it did not issue a no show-cause to the Lopez-owned network despite its alleged commercial overloading.

Overloading refers to having more than 18 minutes' worth of advertisements in one television hour.

"For almost 10 years when ABS had no effective competition and when ABS was overloading its high-rating programs, the KBP did not enforce the no-overloading rule," Gozon had said. "I was informed that the rule was enforced only twice in 10 years against ABS and it was even doubtful if ABS paid the fine."

He added that the overloading rule

did not have actual basis.

He said the KBP was again showing favor for ABS-CBN regarding the complaint that the Lopez network had filed against GMA's Enriquez.

"While these cases should be a cause for concern on the part of GMA, it would be wrong to assume that these cases by themselves constitute a bias on the part of KBP against GMA," the KBP said.

However, Gozon pointed out in a separate statement that those cases were not really the reason for GMA's withdrawal of its membership from the KBP.

"The KBP missed the main points raised by GMA Network," he said. "GMA cited the said cases, not as its main reasons for its withdrawal from the KBP, but merely to illustrate the danger to the KBP of being charged with discrimination, of irregular, inconsistent, selective and ineffective enforcement of its regulations."

GMA left the KBP on Sept. 1.

'Credible, respected' host to replace Inday

From page A26

has remained)."

Bargain

Beluso said Inday survived a whole month in the ICU because she had four things to bargain for with God.

One of her biggest dreams was to see Clara finish school. Clara, Inday's daughter with Gene "Bo" Palomo, is now a freshman at the Global City Innovative College in Taguig.

"She had also wanted to put up a dialysis center for the poor at a property she bought in Tanay, Rizal," he said. "Nakakakuba daw ang gastos ng dialysis (Dialysis treatments can leave you broke)," she said."

Inday had been undergoing dialysis three times a week before she was hospitalized. She also had a heart bypass operation in 1996.

"Ate Luds had also said she regretted not having travelled extensively before she got sick," Beluso said.

He added that Inday also wanted to go back to producing shows for TV and radio like what she did in the early '90s.

Inday and her partner, Palomo, produced the talk show "Movie Magazine," which was hosted by Nap Gutierrez and Cristy Fermin, as well as "Isang Tanong, Isang Sagot," hosted by Beluso and Aster Amoyo.

"What I would miss about her is her



FLOWERS overflow at the wake of Inday on Sunday.

ERIK ARAZAS

heartly laugh which she would never be without every time we're together. Only Inday has that kind of laugh. That laugh is really contagious," said Palomo. "I was never depressed when I was with her."

Palomo said that with Inday's death, he would rather be congratulated than offered condolences.

"Because she is now at peace with her God in heaven," he said.

The flowers have not stopped coming at Inday's wake. Most of the bouquets were in fancy arrangements and came from anybody who's somebody in showbiz and politics.

But the memories she left behind were more beautiful than the flowers.

Veteran actor Charlie Davao had

known Inday for 30 years but he had never appeared in any of her shows.

"Nagtampo ako d'yan once (She made me feel bad one time)," he said, recalling the time when the Queen of Intrigues and her staff visited the special kids in Elsie Gaches Village.

"There was a child there whose surname was also Davao," he said. "I was shocked. My wife confronted me. My son Ricky was even interviewed on TV if it was true."

After inquiring at the Elsie Gaches Village, Charlie and his wife found out that the child was related to one of his distant relatives. They then patched things up with Inday.

Former beauty queen and actress Chat Silayan has also never appeared in

any of Inday's shows. But Chat's impression of Inday changed in 1994 when she spoke to a group of media personalities in a gathering organized by the Elim community of renewed Christians.

"(Inday) was there and during that time she was beginning to search for a more spiritual life," she recalled.

Chat added that a mutual friend, Anselmo Beluso, had "told me a lot about Ate Luds that really touched my heart." She talked about relationships and marriage that felt like pieces of advice from an older sister.

Actress and stand-up comedienne Tessie Tomas was a regular guest in Inday's programs.

"Because every time I would have a show even during my Melinda days (when she impersonated the former First Lady), she would gladly accommodate me to promote (my shows)," she explained. "I will never forget her kindness."

There are also non-show biz people whose lives Inday touched. One of them is Letty Mendoza of Sta. Maria, Bulacan, who has followed the career of Inday since 1977. They became close when Inday visited her hometown in Bulacan.

Letty was on her way to Sta. Maria from a trip to Mindoro when she got a text message about Inday's demise.

Like most people who knew Inday, Letty went straight to Inday's wake.

Comedian and Parañaque Councilor Anjo Yllana was seen dining with former Parañaque Mayor Pablo Olivares and five others Tuesday night at Maxim's Restaurant in Sucat Road. Olivares has announced his plan to run for mayor again in next year's election, when incumbent Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez ends his term. Anjo is reportedly being wooed by Olivares to run as his vice mayor, while Marquez will seek a seat in Congress.

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SHOW TIME

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

'Credible, respected' host to replace Inday

By Marinel R. Cruz
and Jocelyn Valle, Contributor

INDAY Badiday is irreplaceable.

"It's impossible to find somebody like Inday Badiday," said Ansel Beluso, head writer of the show biz talk show "Inday: Heart to Heart" on GMA 7 last Sunday at Inday's wake at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati City.

He said that whoever would replace Inday should be someone who's as credible and as highly respected in show biz as the Queen of Intrigues herself.

"Whoever will take over the show would only have to be who he or she really is," Beluso added.

"The new host would have to be someone who's motherly, like Inday," said Bibeth Orteza, who's also a head writer of "Heart to Heart" and one of Inday's long-time friends.

Inday, Lourdes Jimenez Carvajal in real life, pioneered show biz talk shows in the Philippines, hosting TV shows like "See True," which ran for seven years, "The Truth and Nothing But," four years, and "Eye to Eye," 10 years.

She died on Sept. 27 of a lingering illness at the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City after being confined in the hospital's intensive care unit since Aug. 18.

Interment will be on Thursday after the 2 p.m. Mass at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City.

Actress Rio Diaz-Cojuangco will host "Heart to Heart" for two weeks, interviewing singers Martin Nievera and Jaya Ramsey on Oct. 5 and 12, respectively.

Sexy actress Rufa Mae Quinto, who has been pinch-hitting for weeks now, will interview comedian Roderick Paulate, said Orteza.

Comedians Michael V and Joey de Leon also took over the show when Inday was still in the hospital.

Heart of people

"We are hoping that with 'Heart to Heart,' Ate Luds had paved the way for more shows that focus on the heart of people and not (on) the intrigues," said Beluso.

Inday wrote a column, "Face to Face," in the Saturday Special section of the INQUIRER. The format of "Face to Face" later took on the form of a letter to her 17-year-old daughter, Clara.

Beluso said Inday's inspirational writings would soon be compiled by Anvil Publishing into a book titled "Dear Clara." Having worked with the talk show host for more than 25 years, Beluso would be in charge of compiling materials for the book.

"Whenever we would see each other, she would always ask me about it. She was really excited," said Beluso. "I wanted to include the columns she published in the past, *lalagyan na lang ng Dear Clara*."

Beluso said he was just waiting for the permission of INQUIRER editor in chief and Inday's sister, Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, before working on Inday's book.

During a recent interview with the staff members of "Heart to Heart," Magsanoc recalled the time when she and Inday were growing up in Camp Aguinaldo. Their late father, Nicanor Jimenez, was a former ambassador to Korea.

"She befriended the children and military officials there and made them dance and sing in programs she organized," Magsanoc recalled. "She also organized people to do mischief."

Hard to understand

Magsanoc said she found Inday's fascination with show biz celebrities difficult to understand, but was really very proud of her sister.

"She was smart, intelligent and excelled in the career that she decided to pursue. I'll always be known as the sister of Inday" she said.

At Inday's wake last Sunday, show biz writer Ronald Carballo shared with Inquirer Entertainment a little secret: For years, Inday had paid the bill of his birthday parties.

"This happened when Inday was at the peak of her career in the '80s," said Carballo. "She would call me a week before my birthday, ask me how much I would need for the party and, on the day of the celebration, send a check with an amount double than what I told her."

Carballo said he was present during Inday's Aug. 7 birthday celebration at the Trader's Hotel in Pasay City.

"She hugged me and said, 'Salamat, Ronald. *Nawala na silang lahat, ikaw na lang ang naiwan* (Thank you for being here. They are all gone, and you are the only one who

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Stacie Orrico
PLAYLIST
RINGTONE: N2
POLYTONE: T2
WALLPAPER: C2
LYRICS: LY2



Baby Boy
Beyonce
Dangerously In Love
RINGTONE: N3
POLYTONE: T3
WALLPAPER: FREE*
LYRICS: LY3



Officially Missing You
Tamia
SIII
RINGTONE: N4
POLYTONE: T4
WALLPAPER: C3
LYRICS: LY4



Thoia Thoing
R. Kelly
R In R & B Collection
RINGTONE: N5
POLYTONE: T5
WALLPAPER: C4
LYRICS: LY5



I'm Still Here
Vertical Horizon
Go
RINGTONE: N6
POLYTONE: T6
WALL PAPER: C5
LYRICS: LY6



Overjoyed
Paolo Santos
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POLYTONE: T7
WALLPAPER: C6
LYRICS: LY7



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WALLPAPER: C7
LYRICS: LY9



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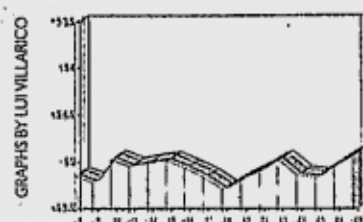
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SEPTEMBER

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Japan	Yen	0.007797	0.008950	0.493000
United Kingdom	Pound	1.445335	1.659100	91.393200
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112407	0.129032	7.107900
Switzerland	Franc	0.648665	0.744602	41.017100
Canada	Dollar	0.644006	0.739317	40.726000
Singapore	Dollar	0.502948	0.577334	31.803000
Australia	Dollar	0.588103	0.675083	37.187600
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.310943	2.652731	146.128300
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.232295	0.266652	14.688800
Brunei	Dollar	0.5015	0.575672	31.711500
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000119	0.006600
Thailand	Baht	0.021741	0.024956	1.374700
UAE	Dirham	0.237217	0.272301	15.000000
Euro	Euro	1	1.147900	63.233200
Argentina	Peso	0.000399	0.000428	0.023500
Brazil	REAL	0.297933	0.341997	18.839200
Denmark	Kroner	0.134637	0.154550	8.513500
India	Rupee	0.019042	0.021858	1.204100
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.229282	0.263193	14.498200
Mexico	New Peso	0.079153	0.090860	5.005100
New Zealand	Dollar	0.511903	0.587613	32.369200
South Africa	Rand	0.1215	0.139470	7.682800
Korea	Won	0.000759	0.000871	0.048000
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025865	0.029691	1.635600

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end lower

STOCKS edged lower yesterday in slow trade, with few fresh leads to inspire investor interest, traders said.

A slide in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Ayala Land helped pull the broad market down.

The Philippine stock index fell 3.49 points or 0.27 percent, to finish at 1,310.36 points. Turnover was a light P291.9 million, against P606.35 million last Friday.

"People are waiting for something new to happen, whether on the economic front, corporate results or in politics," said BPI Securities senior analyst Spencer Yap.

The announcement of candidates for next year's presidential elections, including news on whether President Macapagal-Arroyo will change her mind and stand for the job, should remove some of the political uncertainty and help provide a fresh trading spur, traders said.

Without fresh developments on the economic, political or corporate front, the market will continue to drift in a narrow range, Yap said. **Reuters**

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX SEPTEMBER



(See stock market report on Page B2)

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Treasury yesterday said it would allow the government's cost of borrowing to move up closer to the central bank's overnight borrowing rate of 6.75 percent in the coming weeks after accepting slightly higher bids for treasury bills in yesterday's auction.

"The market can expect treasury bill rates to go up until it becomes more competitive with the BSP (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas) overnight rate. The adjustment period would depend on whether the market would continue bidding with a low volume," National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said.

The treasurer noted that unlike in previous weeks when higher

91-DAY TREASURY BILL RATES

January to September 1, 2003



rates were dictated by political uncertainties, yesterday's bids were market driven.

"We have a strong cash position of about P30 billion. And money is not a problem for us especially as we are looking to borrow overseas in the near term,"

Edeza added.

The government would go back to offshore markets soon to raise its remaining \$225-million requirement this year and pre-fund as much as \$1 billion of its \$1.8-billion financing need for 2004.

The benchmark 91-day rate went

up by 18.1 basis points to 5.506 percent, the 182-day rate increased by 5.8 basis points to 6.567 percent and the 364-day rate rose by 13.8 basis points to 7.236 percent.

Due to very few tenders from banks, the government raised only P5.56 billion yesterday out of P9.5 billion put on auction. Bids for the six-month and one-year bills fell below the volume offered, indicating a lack of appetite for the government securities.

Had the government awarded the bids in full, the rates would have gone up by 22.9 basis points for the 91-day, by 34.1 basis points for the 182-day, and by 53.1 basis points for the 364-day treasuries.

Edeza, however, stressed that the decision to accept higher bids yesterday was part of the government's deliberate effort to make government securities more competitive.

Other airlines seen seeking flight permits to US

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LIFTING of capacity ceilings for flights to the United States on Oct. 1 will allow carriers other than Philippine Airlines to apply for flight entitlements to the US and pave the way for stiffer competition.

Aviation industry expert Benjamin Solis said in an interview yesterday that no other local carrier had been given the chance to apply for flight frequencies to the United States as PAL was already using 25 of the 36 entitlements the country had.

PAL also had applications for the remaining 11 frequencies.

Philippine and US flag carriers are each currently allowed to operate 36 flights a week between the two countries, based on a 1995 memorandum of agreement that will expire today.

This MOA was signed to give local carriers a chance to build up their businesses enough to be competitive. The 1982 air transport agreement between the two countries did not put any limitations on flight frequencies.

As this agreement has not been amended, the 1982 provisions will take full effect and eliminate the cap on frequencies on the passenger side.

This means that by Oct. 1, US airlines can make any number of flights to the country. **OTHER/B2**

2 firms allowed to mine inside Samar natural park

By Christine A. Gaylican

TWO companies will be allowed to mine at the Samar Island Natural Park despite its declaration as a forest reserve by Congress, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said yesterday.

Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun said in an interview that previously issued rights or privileges over the aluminum reserves on the island were acceptable and would be recognized as provided for in the recent law establishing the Samar Island Natural Park.

"There were two Mining Production Sharing Agreements issued by former DENR Secretary (Heherson) Alvarez and these have been recognized as 'prior vested rights or privileges over the reserves' as stated in the law. Therefore, mining exploration and production will be allowed," Gozun said.

According to the DENR's Mines and Geosciences Bureau, the MPSAs issued to Alumina Mining Philippines Inc. and Bauxite Resources Inc. will cover 12,213 hectares, which would be excluded from the forest reservation.

"The two companies will be allowed because their MPSAs were issued prior to the approval of the law. However, they would have to go through the process of securing environment clearances from the DENR as well as other clearances from local government units," Gozun said.



She added that the companies could also go to mining production if the exploration activities proved enough reserves. The mines bureau noted that the country's remaining bauxite or aluminum reserves were available only on Samar Island.

Mines and Geosciences Bureau director Leo Jasareno said that mining exploration activities within a reservation park could be done using the best technology available.

Whatever suits you.



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Stock market enters menopause

MR. BEARBULL



Ron Natban

ment sent out people to determine why this country has the highest birth rate in the Galaxy. After a month, the investigators reported they could not get to interview any of the 500 couples, chosen at random, because "they were always at it." The investigators got so frustrated, they all took leave of their census.

AS YOU can tell from the proliferation of jokes this week, there wasn't much going on in the stock market. In fact, turnover less cross sales, fell to P132 million on Friday, the lowest figure for months and P150 million on Monday. In my newsletter, I wrote that the index was ready to break the 1,320 recent high. On Wednesday, it got within a decimal point of doing so but Wall Street had a sell-off with the DOW dropping 150 points and the Nasdaq over 3 percent. This affected all Asian markets and we were no exception. The Phisix opened 9 points lower but recovered to show a small loss of 4 points. Next night, the DOW fell an additional 86 points and our market opened 5 points lower but recovered to close unchanged. On Friday night, it fell an additional 31 points as fund managers took profits before the end of the 3rd quarter. The selling should stop in a day or two and we should be ready to test the previous high. The risk factor on ABSP was only 5 at P23 but today, it jumped to P24 buyer, even though the index was 3 points lower.

Last week was quiet but there should be some increase in activity within the next two weeks because companies start reporting their earnings, commencing mid-October and finishing by mid-November. There is a tendency for investors to take bull positions in stocks they believe are doing well, one to two weeks before. So TEL and GLO should improve along with a number of other leaders. Then, once the results are announced, there is a tendency for the stocks to go down, even if they have lived up to expectations. This pattern applies to all stock exchanges, not just ours. I have studied this phenomenon since 1952 in London and later, here in Manila. It is a matter of psychology.

Nothing much happened here but there

was more action in the United States. First, the chair of the New York Stock Exchange was put out to Grasso. Then Kodak shocked the market by announcing that it was going to cut its dividend by 70 percent and pull out of manufacturing traditional cameras, going into digital instead. The shares plunged 18 percent and fell again the next day. Many jobs will be lost and it would not surprise me if, next year, the stock were removed from the DOW JONES index. It has been the worst performer this year and its capitalization is by far the smallest of the 30 DOW components. Disney has had to alter its animated Snow White movie. They have added a scene in which Snow White stands outside a Kodak shop singing, "One day, my prints will come."

The G7, which is not Gillette's latest razor, but a group of rich nations, issued a communiqué that Asian countries should not prevent their currencies from appreciating against the weak dollar but allow more flexible rates. Over the past eight months, Japan has spent nine trillion yen to sell its currency and buy dollars in an effort to hold the exchange rate. This tactic has not worked because everyday, trillions of dollars circulate around the world so nobody is strong enough to prevent the currency from finding its natural level. Many years ago, the Bank of England tried to hold the pound at \$2. George Soros knew it was overvalued and kept on selling. Eventually, the bank ran out of funds and the pound was devalued to \$1.50. Soros made billions.

The G22, which consists of 22 poor nations, including our own, has rejected calls to abolish their tariffs while the rich countries continue to subsidize their farmers. These countries may be poor but they are not stupid and talks will not resume for at least another two years. The G7 thought they had us on a G-string.

The government has offered to foreign bidders, 46 sites off West Palawan, where it is believed there are substantial quantities of oil and natural gas. The foreign companies have the technology and the capital to develop these sites and if they strike it rich, it will be beneficial to both sides. We also have untapped reserves of gold, silver and copper. The government should invite companies from Australia and Canada to explore and develop these mines, using their advanced technology. Again, it could be advantageous to both sides especially as gold is sold in dollars and it is at a seven-year high.

LATE NEWS: Europe has successfully launched a moon probe. It contains a clock with a lunar tick. mrbearbull@hotmail.com

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Sept. 29, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.5	339,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43.5	43.5	43	43.5	559,400
China Banking Corp.	685	685	680	680	900
Citizens Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	1,800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33.5	33.5	33	33.5	35,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29	29.5	29	29	1,841,300
Prudential Bank	300	300	300	300	550
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	85	85	85	85	100
Philippine National Bank	25.5	25.5	25	25	80,800
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	6,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	30	29	30	250,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1645	1645	1645	1645	400
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.34	1.32	1.32	3,374,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1210	1210	1210	1210	450
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23.25	23.5	23.25	23.5	12,100
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.58	1,800,000
Encall Phils. Inc.-Com	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	695	700	695	695	11,580
Ipsople Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	30,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.048	0.048	11,500,000
ISN Communications Corp.	0.049	0.05	0.048	0.048	16,100,000
Philippine Tel. Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.74	1,030,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	655	655	645	655	18,200
Ivanhoe Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	70,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	2,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.5	15.25	15.25	216,000
Manila Electric Co. B	23.25	23.5	23.25	23.5	515,900
Petrone Corp.	2	2	2	2	227,000
Silicon Power Corp.	1.82	2.12	1.82	2	250,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	25,000
INT Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	11,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	200,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Phil. Net'l Const. Corp.	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.5	167,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	89,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	680,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	143,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.5	338,800
RFM Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54.5	53.5	54	71,000
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	63	62.5	63	8,800
Universal Robina Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	1,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.85	4.9	4.85	4.9	1,558,000
Abolito Equity Ventures	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.9	374,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.031	0.033	0.031	0.033	300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	8,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	5,000
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	4,000
Balelinc Resources & Hldgs	0.136	0.135	0.135	0.135	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.64	0.64	5,410,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	400,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	1,100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.29	990,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	500,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.5	149,700
House Of Investments Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	500,000
Ionics Inc.	1.7	1.72	1.7	1.72	135,000
J.B. Summit Holdings Inc.	2	2	2	2	11,000
Martel Corp. Inc. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	2,000,000
Mogueriver Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	25,920,000
Motro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32	1,880,000
Musica Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	1,020,000
Prima Orion Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	120,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.14	320,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	100,000
Walex Industries Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	40,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	700,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.55	0.58	0.55	0.58	1,650,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
Manila Jockey Club	8	8	8	8	10,000
Mondragon Int'l Phils Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	80,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23.5	24	23.5	24	427,300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series As	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	800
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	12,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.5	2,245,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1,000
EIG Realty Developers Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	90,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	580,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	30,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.08	1.08	3,850,000
Highlands Prima Inc.	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	100,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	400,000
Flt-Estate Land Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	810,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	1,000,000
SM Development Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	9,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	10,111,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	300,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	10,000
Lapanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	30,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	14,000,000
Phillex Mining Corp. A	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	170,000
Phillex Mining Corp. B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0034	0.0034	11,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	24,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	10,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	70,000

PLDT says mobile growth to boost 3rd quarter profit

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) is optimistic about posting improved profits for this quarter on the back of strong mobile growth.

PLDT president Manuel Pangilinan told Reuters that its third-quarter earnings would be supported by strong revenue growth at the

group's mobile phone brands Smart Communications and Pilipino Telephone Corp. (Piltel).

PLDT, controlled by Hong Kong conglomerate First Pacific Co. Ltd., posted a surprise 34-percent profit slump in the first half of the year as provisions for job cuts and investment losses wiped out a tripling of mobile earnings.

Pangilinan said that provisions would not be such a significant drag on PLDT's earnings for the third quarter.

"Quite difficult for me to indicate a number. But I can say that the significant provisions you have seen in PLDT's first-half results will no longer be repeated for the second half," he told

Reuters in an e-mail response to questions.

Other ...

From page B1

Philippine flag carriers can also do the same.

Solis said that while PAL cited stiff competition from US carriers as its reason for staunchly opposing the lifting of frequency caps for flights to the US, he suspected the Lucio Tan-owned carrier was actually more afraid of other Philippine carriers that could pose as a threat to its business. Asian Institute of Management professor Victor Limlingan pointed out that Cebu Pacific's regional business strategy has so far worked.

He added that if the Gokongwei-owned airline would employ the same low-cost, on-time strategy for potential flights to the US, PAL could very well face very stiff competition.

However, PAL president and chief operating officer Avelino Zapanta said in a telephone interview that what PAL even wanted was "total and real open skies," which would open the market to all carriers, both US and Philippine flag carriers.

"That's a misconception. Under total and real open skies, traffic rights will be unrestricted and unlimited. We were given unequal benefits under the 1982 agreement. The US carriers enjoyed a windfall while we got almost nothing," told the INQUIRER.

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DISCLOSURES

MUSIC Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting to Dec. 17, 2 p.m. at the Renaissance Room of New World Hotel. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 29 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

ELECTED directors of Waterfront Philippines Inc. were Donato Almada, Kenneth Gatchalian, Rexlon Gatchalian, Alexandria Gonzales, Patrick Gregorio, Arthur Lopez, Renato Magadia, Lamberto Mercado Jr. and Elvira Ting.

MANULIFE Financial Corp. merged with John Hancock Financial Services Inc., creating a global insurance franchise valued at \$25.6 billion.

PHILIPPINE Estates Corp. denied having any information that could explain the 50-percent increase in its share price that rose from P0.0525 to P0.0775 per share.

DUE to lack of quorum, Ever Gotesco Resources and Holdings Inc. could not set the date for its annual stockholders' meeting.

DUE to the resignation of some directors of Gotesco Land Inc., the chair could not get a quorum and set the annual stockholders' meeting.

PREMIERE Entertainment Productions Inc. will issue over 13.16 billion new shares out of its increased authorized capital stock to acquire 97-percent of Nextmobile Inc. A stockholders' meeting will be held on Oct. 24 to approve the quasi reorganization of the company's capital account.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

INTEREST RATES

September 29, 2003-MART1	MART1	MART1
Benchmark	29-Sep-03	26-Sep-03
Interest Rates		
1 Month	6.2946	6.2429
3 Months	6.2946	6.2339
6 Months	7.1213	7.0982
1 Year	8.1054	8.1143
2 Years	9.1533	9.1473
3 Years	9.7179	9.7232
4 Years	10.2117	10.1658
5 Years	10.5183	10.5183
7 Years	11.1417	11.10
10 Years	11.5533	11.5804
20 Years	12.0089	12.0408
25 Years	12.2893	12.33

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

Napocor to bid out P680-M coal supply contract in Oct.

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NATIONAL Power Corp. is bidding out in October a P679-million contract for the supply and delivery of coal to the 1,200-megawatt Sual power plant in Pangasinan.

A Napocor document showed that the contract, which has a budget cap of \$12.35 million, would be auctioned off through electronic bidding on Oct. 17.

The budget cap means a price ceiling of \$38 per ton as the contract covered five shipments of coal equivalent to 325,000 metric tons.

The cargoes are slated for delivery between November and December of this year.

An industry source said Napocor's fifth bidding round for coal supplies this year represented "emergency stock" amid a supply shortage in China.

In July, Chinese supplier Shanxi Coal Import and Export Group Corp. bagged a contract worth about P600 million for five shipments of coal to the Mirant Philippines-operated Sual plant.

The source said Shanxi was hard put to meet its commitments after production dropped due to an explosion in one of the mines in the coal-rich province of the same name last August.

Shanxi's commitment was to deliver 325,000 metric tons of fuel between September and October this

year.

Napocor has auctioned off seven contracts totaling some P3.6 billion after four bidding rounds.

Early this year, the power firm's management said it had approved a budget of P5.6 billion for its coal requirements in 2003.

The supplies are intended for coal plants that are run by Napocor and its build-operate-transfer partners in Sual, Pangasinan; Pagbilao, Quezon; Masinloc, Zambales; and Naga, Cebu.

Napocor imports coal for most of its coal plants as local supply do not meet desired quality and standard of fuels needed by all but one of the country's coal-fired power plants.



SCHOOLCHILDREN of the Coca-Cola group's Little Red Schoolhouse in Calbayog City learn more than just their ABCs.

Coke helps put quality education within reach

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FIGURES from the Department of Education showed that only 68 percent of Filipino children age 5 to 14 years old are in school.

Others fail to get even the most basic education because of poverty that forces children to work instead of going to school and shortage of educational facilities particularly in remote rural areas.

This may be a serious problem considering the government's scarce resources but there are companies that are more than willing to extend a helping hand in addressing this matter. Coca-Cola Foundation Phils. Inc., in partnership with Coca-Cola Foundation of Atlanta, USA, for one, has been providing quality schoolrooms in poor communities in the country, particularly in remote areas, through its Little Red Schoolhouse project. The project was launched in 1997.

CORPORATE CITIZEN

thriving, that we are able to bring life to a community. Internally, the people are proud to be part of the community and a company that cares," Alcantara said.

Alcantara said Coca-Cola knew that it could not answer for everything but said that the group was already fulfilled in knowing that the project had contributed to the solution of the problem.

"Our project is different because we do not only build buildings, we also provide teacher training and we help organize parent-teacher associations to make it sustainable," Alcantara said.

Rise in enrollment

In Brgy. Catalina, there has been a dramatic increase in enrollment and the students registered better grades than before. The same goes for the Mauswagon Elementary School in Misamis Occidental, where school population increased from 30 in 1997 to 103 this year.

The Little Red Schoolhouse project concentrates on multi-grade instruction to go around the shortage of teachers. This allows teachers to teach students in different grade levels at the same time and in the same room.

Teachers involved in the project were sent in batches to Cebu, Manila and Baguio City to hone their skills in multi-grade instruction.

The Coca-Cola group likewise tapped the help of non-government organizations such as the Children and Youth Foundation of the Philippines to help organize the community into a Parents, Teachers and Community Association, which was tasked to manage, optimize and maintain the school buildings and their facilities.

Many have come up with income-generating projects to help sustain the operations of the schoolhouse and finance improvements in those facilities.

Enlightened parents

Teacher Evangeline Moreno of Brgy. Jimautan adds that many parents who have previously dismissed education as a luxury, are now being encouraged by the PCTA to send their children to school.

Moreno explains that many parents in the farming and fishing communities used to think that their children were better off working in the fields or the fishing boats than going to school. They also saw little value in making their children walk a great distance only to reach their schools.

But with the Little Red Schoolhouse's quality amenities and top-grade learning materials practically at their doorstep, the children themselves now ask for the chance to go to school. And they learn more than just the basics.

Motivation

For 13-year-old Jenica Irene V. Aban of Brgy. Apolonia, Paranas, Samar, the school taught her values such as honesty, obedience and being respectful.

In Sitio Dulom, Brgy. San Miguel, La Carlota City, the children have become more motivated in their studies.

The school principal Zenaida v. Gabaton says that the first batch of graduates performed well in the National Elementary Achievement Test, putting the Little Red Schoolhouse among the top 10 schools in the area.

Some of its graduates that went on to high school continued doing well.

"We can say that Dulom (which literally means darkness) is continuing to shine brightly because of the Coca-Cola Little Red Schoolhouse. Without the Coca-Cola Foundation which started the light, the children of Dulom would continue to suffer the 3-4 kilometer walk in the middle of the sugarcane field to the barrio school," Gabaton says.

Pre-need firms given up to Dec. to comply with investment limits

By Elena R. Torrijos

PRE-NEED companies have until the end of this year to ensure that their trust fund investments in stocks, real estate and other assets do not exceed the limits set by the Securities and Exchange Commission, said Emil Aquino, director of SEC non-traditional securities and instruments department.

Under the SEC rules, pre-need companies should make sure that their trust fund, the pool of assets set aside to cover for the plan holders' benefits, complies with the prescribed portfolio mix to guarantee the delivery of benefits provided under the plans sold by pre-need companies.

Specifically, the SEC

rules state that investments in either real estate or equities should not exceed 25 percent of the total trust fund, investments in long-term commercial papers should not be more than 15 percent and direct loans should be limited to 5 percent or less.

Earlier this year, however, the SEC, agreed to a proposal of the Philippine Federation of Pre-need Plan Companies Inc. to give pre-need companies that could not comply with the required portfolio mix as of last year until the end of this year for as long as they could meet three conditions.

Specifically, the non-compliant pre-need companies must make no additional investment in real es-

tate, must double their liquidity reserve to 20 percent from the required 10 percent and must show sufficient reserves to cover one-year availment of benefits falling due.

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Part II

Manalo ng

P25,000 (texter)

2 Winners para sa

bawat BIR Regional Office

(Total of 38 winners)

sa Weekly Draw

(October - December)

P1,000,000 (texter)

sa Monthly Draw

(October 31 & November 28)

P1,000,000 (3 texters)

P50,000 (3 issuers)

sa Christmas Draw

(December 15)

Paano Sumali:

- Humingi ng Official Receipt (O.R.) o Resibo tuwing namimili, kumakain sa labas, kumukunsulta sa doktor, abogado at kapag nag-avail ng iba pang mga serbisyo.
- Sundin ang mga sumusunod sa pag-i-text ng O.R. o Resibo:
- Ang mga O.R. o Resibo lang na na-issue mula September 15 to December 14, 2003 ang qualified sa promo. Bawat P100 = 1 raffle entry. Makakakuha kayo via text ng confirmation kung ilan na ang entries ninyo.
- Itago ang inyong mga isinaling O.R. o Resibo. Kailangan ipakita ng winner ang actual O.R. o Resibo for validation.

How to register for the draw

Layer 1

RESIBO(space)name

address(TIN of O.R.)

O.R. number/amount of purchase

SEND-AN

345

para sa SMART & T&T

2393

para sa ALDO & T&T

Para sa

RESIBO(space)

TIN of O.R.

O.R. number/amount of purchase

Ang mga entries na na-send for the week ang qualified sa Weekly Draw. Ang mga non-winning entries sa Weekly Draw ay isasali sa Monthly Draw at ang mga hindi manalo sa Weekly at Monthly Draw ay may pagkakataon pang manalo sa Christmas Draw.

FOR INQUIRIES CALL:

921-4324 or 924-3264

Unilever to start exporting to US

UNILEVER Philippines Inc. is eyeing to penetrate the United States market next year and double the export revenue it generates from one of its product segments to P5 billion from an estimated P2.5 billion in 2002.

Unilever chair and chief executive officer Howard Belton said the company has a pending application with the United States Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) for a certification that would pave the way for its entry into the vast US market.

"The US FDA is currently undertaking inspection in our factories. We are expecting the approval of our application before the end of this year, so that we can begin exporting early

next year," said Belton in an interview.

Unilever, manufacturer of household products such as Surf, Domex, Creamsilk, Rexona, Vaseline and Ponds, is planning to start its exportation to the US initially through its latest deodorant product Rexona Mini Stick.

Belton said Unilever exports 20 million pieces of Rexona Mini Stick to 16 different countries, including Russia, Poland, Romania and Indonesia.

With the addition of the US in the list of its export destinations, Unilever expects to double its Rexona Mini Stick exports to 40 million pieces per year.

Michelle V. Remo

REAL ESTATE

Capitol-Ayala Land deal 'difficult to justify,' says ex-Capitol vice chair Sotto: 'Nothing irregular'

By Jerry Esplanada

(First of two parts)

THE AYALA Hillside Estates may not be the eighth wonder of the world. But it can be "your own piece of blue sky and patch of green land" in the heart of bustling Quezon City.

The joint land development project of Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club Inc. and property giant Ayala Land Inc. has also been touted as a "serene corner with a spectacular view of fairways, trees and rolling terrain."

At the 23-hectare property, located in Old Balara, 400-1,200-square-meter residential lots meander an 18-hole, all-weather precision golf course with a spectacular view of fairways, trees and rolling terrain, in addition to top-of-the-line amenities.

"Be on top of the world and on top of your golf game, too," said a project brochure.

Ayala Hillside Estates was actually "designed to be a complete community. It offers amenities for the entire family... It's your home and your escape. It's an investment for a better life. It's a priceless gift to pass on to your children and to your children's children," according to the same promo material.

Multibillion-peso scam

For more than five years now, Capitol's 3,000-or-so stockholders have been eagerly awaiting the formal opening of the land development project, except Manuel "Manoling" Sanchez who has denounced the project as a "multibillion-peso scam."

Controversial government projects like the "Diosdado Macapagal highway and the Impsa pale in comparison," said Sanchez, an ex-Capitol vice chair.

"Although this may be considered an intra-corporate matter, the perpetration of this scam is imbued with public interest because every step of the way, the questionable approvals, actions and inactions of several government agencies and officials are glaring," he claimed.

Whistle blower

Aside from club president Pablo Roman Jr. and corporate secretary Matias Defensor, Sanchez also assailed top officials of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, Land Registration Authority, Office of the Ombudsman, and the Quezon City government for their alleged involvement in the real estate anomaly.

Sanchez, who called himself a "retired businessman," claimed he had blown the whistle because the Capitol-Ayala Land deal was "difficult to justify."

'Lopsided deal'

In a statement, the Loyola Heights, Q.C., resident questioned the validity of a 1997 memorandum of agreement which authorized Ayala Land to develop Capitol's 54-hectare golf course into a 22-ha. high-end residential area.

The deal was never approved by two-thirds of Capitol's 3,000 stockholders, insisted Sanchez (who owns 24 club shares). "(Club officials) refused to show proof of such approval. Attorney Defensor defied on two occasions a court order for the inspection of club documents," he alleged further.

The MOA, he also claimed, did "not provide any safety net(s) for stockholders nor (get their) say (on who, how much and when to sell the lots)."

Sanchez pointed out "the official zonal valuation of the (Capitol) property is P13,600 per square meter (while) the market

value is P20,000 to P25,000 per sq. m. The development cost of Ayala is said to be P4,000-5,000 per sq. m."

He called it a "lopsided deal" in favor of the property giant. "The sharing is 60-40 in favor of Ayala. This is simply ridiculous no matter how perfumed is the name of Ayala as a land developer. It is advertised (in newspapers) that Ayala is selling the property at P18,500-20,000 per sq. m."

"After deducting 30 percent of the land for roads, open spaces, etc. Capitol shareholders will get a return of P5,000 per sq. m. (while) Ayala (will) receive P8,000 per sq. m., a loss of 62 percent (for) Capitol and a 230-percent profit (for) Ayala. This is unbelievable and borders on criminality," according to Sanchez.

Defensor, father of Housing Secretary Michael Defensor, has denied Sanchez's allegations. He said everything was aboveboard. He also noted it was fair sharing, considering the huge development cost shouldered by Ayala Land.

As of June 12, 2003, ALI had advanced P282,397,700 to the club. But the loan has accrued interests amounting to P167,499,676, bringing the total advances to P449,897,376, SEC documents disclosed.

Ayala Land "has to explain why (it) made advances to Capitol in hundreds of millions one year prior to the MOA," asserted Sanchez. Capitol borrowed the money which it used in buying land in

Rodriguez, Rizal, which will be developed into a 27-hole golf course. In exchange, Capitol sold half of its Old Balara golf course to ALI for land development, explained Defensor.

Funds from the deal are bankrolling the new par-62 course in the remaining half of the same site of the club's old par-72 course in Quezon City as well as the Rizal project.

Defensor also said that contrary to Sanchez's claim, "there's a SEC decision saying the MOA was approved by two-thirds of the stockholders." The decision was final, he added.

Nothing irregular

Sen. Vicente Sotto, a former chair of the Capitol board, affirmed Defensor's explanation. "There's nothing irregular with the deal," Sotto told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"Mareklamo lang talaga," Sotto said, referring to Sanchez. Thomas Mirasol, senior division manager of ALI's Land and Community Development Group, said there was "nothing to blow the whistle on."

"I think he's blowing his own horn. If there's such a problem, why does he seem to be the only one out of thousands of (Capitol) members out there who is complaining?" Mirasol said.

Enormous values

On Sanchez's charge that the deal was lopsided, he said "it

seems obvious that his understanding of the real estate economic model is either intentionally or unintentionally wrong."

"I can't understand how these things have become lopsided for (Capitol) while we are creating enormous values for the club," Mirasol said.

"(But) where in this world would he be able to find someone who is willing to give as much money to the club as we have?"

The ALI executive declined to give details on how much money Capitol is making from the joint project. "Just to give you an idea, we are selling land in the residential subdivisions for P19,000 to P20,000 per sq. m. Based on this, Capitol itself would be able to make a substantial amount of money. The number of zeroes in this thing is incredible," Mirasol told the INQUIRER.

"If Sanchez can find someone who is willing to put that money down and give it to the club, why hasn't he brought this person forward?" Mirasol asked.

Defensor said he did not want to accuse the Capitol stockholder of greed, but "in a corporation, if you feel aggrieved you can unload your shares under the appraised rights or sell your shares."

But there's a problem, the lawyer said. Sanchez wanted to "sell them at a very exorbitant price."

Some 200 lots on Phase 1 of the project have been sold out, disclosed Defensor who also said a "soft launch" was scheduled for this month.

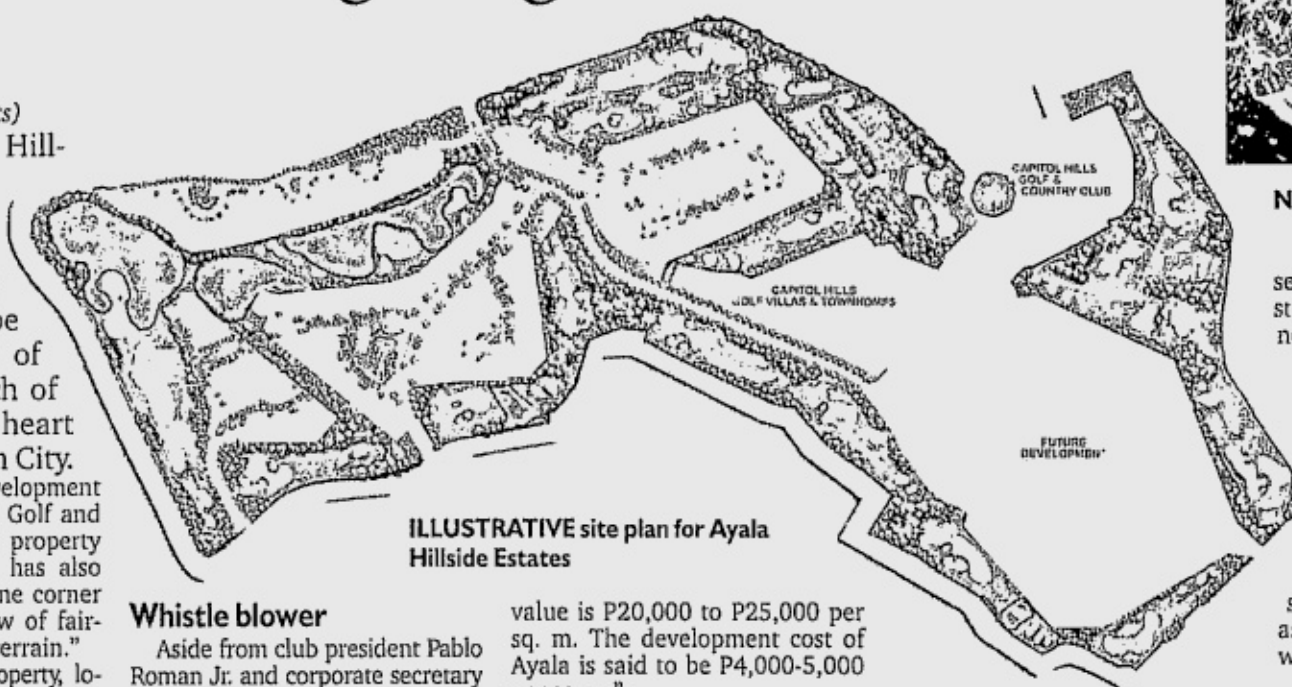
Best views

Ayala Hillside Estates is just "minutes away from premier schools like the University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila university and Miriam Colleges and the groceries, malls and recreational facilities. It offers a quiet way of life that is accessible to whatever you want in a snap."

The project brochure said the



NEW structure on the rise at the Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club



ILLUSTRATIVE site plan for Ayala Hillside Estates

"best views" are located at Phase 2B, where "20 exclusive lots are positioned at the highest elevated area."

At the Pinnacle, which sits on the project's western enclave, nine "exclusive lots (of 800 to 1,200 sq. m.)" are "reserved for those who crave for privacy and discreet luxury."

Phase 1 "will be completed and ready for turnover by Dec. 31, 2003," said the ALI website.

But the project should have been completed in the late 1990s, according to Defensor.

Ayala Hillside Estates lots should "have been sold out at the peak of the market in the mid-90s," said Mirasol. "In 1997 came along the Asian financial crisis. All real estate went down."

"Now without the sale of the lots there's no way for (Capitol) to pay back the loan," he said. "The sale didn't happen until late last year."

Mirasol added: "So what Sanchez has done is basically a disservice to the club... Basically, he's put an enormous burden on the club and every member."

Malaya columnist Ducky Paredes, also a Capitol stockholder, wrote "the deal with Ayala Land is the best thing that could have happened to Capitol."

No anomalies

"There are no anomalies in the transactions of Capitol with Ayala... There are no secret deals anywhere. Sanchez has taken Capitol to the SEC, other government agencies, the courts and everywhere else and has caused us stockholders irreparable damage with all the hurdles he has thrown Capitol's way," said Paredes who tagged his fellow club member a "nuisance at Capitol Golf" and a "corporate troublemaker."

Paredes opined Sanchez "may have had a love for golf when he was younger."

"These days, it is obvious that his game is no longer golf. Maybe, it is gold," Paredes added.

(To be continued)

Lares, Samsung sign US\$90-M contract for land titling computerization project

THE LAND Land Registration Systems Inc. (Lares) and Samsung Corp., Korea's leading firm, will sign today a US\$90-million engineering, procurement and construction contract for the Land Titling Computerization Project of the Land Administration Authority (LRA).

Lares is LRA's partner in the project which, with its online, real time or "register anywhere, anytime" capability, will allow the public to register land transfer titles in two hours or less. The new system will also put an end to land transaction irregularities since accountability and transparency are enhanced in a computerized environment. LRA will not only be able to raise its level of public service, but in the long term also help the government in its poverty alleviation and economic development program.

Signing ceremony

The contract will be signed by Lares chair Cesar T. Quiambao and Samsung Corp. president and CEO Woo-Taik Chung and Samsung SDS's vice president Hyun Soo Choi. Witnessing the signing ceremony will be Lares president and CEO Delfin T. Hallare and Samsung's local representative GM Hyung-Ki Kim.

The event will be graced by Korean Ambassador to the Philippines Sang Ha Son, Stradcom International Holdings chair Roberto R. de Ocampo and LRA Administrator Benedicto Ulep and other LRA officials.

Coverage

The contract covers the overall project management, systems integra-

tion, application development, data conversion and build-up for all LRA registries of deeds nationwide, renovation of the LRA Central Office and the 126 registries of deeds, the construction of 36 registries of deeds, the completion of the Information Management Center in Quezon City as well as provisions for support facilities, workstations and furniture. The contract also stipulates that the existing contractors of Lares for the LTCP will become Samsung's subcontractors.

Samsung also participates in Lares as equity shareholder and commits to secure a US\$41-million loan for the project. It also extends a performance guarantee that will assure Lares of the complete and timely delivery of the project to LRA on a fixed turnkey basis.

Meanwhile, the International Finance Corp. is set to release US\$22 million in direct loan to Lares and US\$3 million in equity contribution to Stradcom's subscription to Lares.

Project objectives

By applying business process reengineering, change management and automated workflow, Internet access, digital mapping, CD ROM and optical disk-based archiving and validating systems, and full network connectivity, the project aims to:

- Secure tighter control over land titles and eliminate fraudulent titles by shifting from a paper-based operation to a paperless system.
- Facilitate the apprehension and

prosecution of persons possessing or dealing in spurious land titles by developing a system of identifying and tracking titles between the LRA central office and the registries of deeds that will verify authenticity of claims, titles, records and documents anytime from anywhere.

- Eliminate fraudulent and inaccurate surveys by using modern digital mapping technologies to create accurate municipal index sheets and update them with parcel boundaries and ownership information.

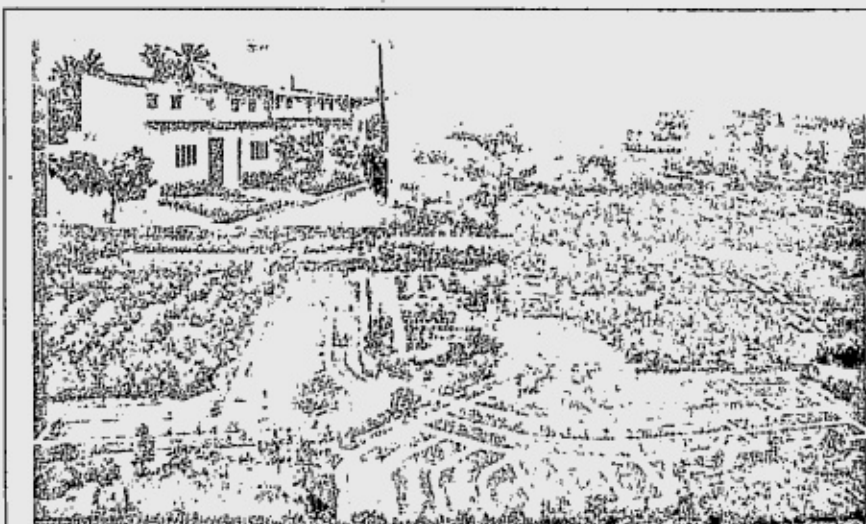
- Make available to the public an Internet access to all land titling information from the LRA central office and all registry offices.

- Protect land information from loss due to fire, theft, natural disasters and the normal rages of time by using secured document imaging technology.

- Expedite land titling procedures through a nationwide networking of all registries and the LRA central office, and by storing land titles-related documents as digital images in a commonly accessible, searchable database.

Once LRA's land title computerization project is completed, the problems plaguing the land title administration system in the country are expected to be adequately addressed.

The public, especially the poor sector of society, can expect tremendous benefits from the project. Since every land-related transaction will be recorded in the computer system database, unscrupulous persons and fake title syndicates can no longer tamper land records and commit land titling crimes.



MARIA Cristina Village: Active Group's socialized housing project. Inset: rowhouses

Active Realty to issue land titles to MCV house and lot owners

ACTIVE Realty Development Corp. will be issuing land titles to Maria Cristina Village house and lot buyers who have completed their payments on Sept. 27 at 10 a.m. at the site in Barangay Latag, Lipa, Batangas. There will be an open house for those interested in buying a house and lot at the said village.

Maria Cristina Village is Active Group's socialized housing project under Section 18 of Republic Act 7279, otherwise known as the Urban Development Housing Act of 1992.

Dream come true

Said architect Antonio Turalba Jr., president of Active Group: "Our MCV

homeowners are happy because this is a dream come true for them. At Active, we do more than just build houses—we make sure our buyers get more than what they paid for, and this applies to all our endeavors. MCV is one way of giving back."

Maria Cristina Village has surpassed the basic requirements of a socialized housing project with standard-width, fully concreted roads, functional waste treatment facilities, and complete water and electrical supply facilities. The rowhouses, cut into 36 square-meter lots, have ample ventilation, a front yard and a dirty kitchen. Of the 1,956 lot units offered, 446 are still available.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2003

REALESTATE

B3

HUDCC OKs exemption to DAR conversion order

By Charles E. Buban

IF a certain property is located in an area already classified as residential, commercial, industrial and other similar development purposes, then a conversion order coming from the Department of Agrarian Reform will no longer be needed in the issuance of a certificate of registration and license to sell.

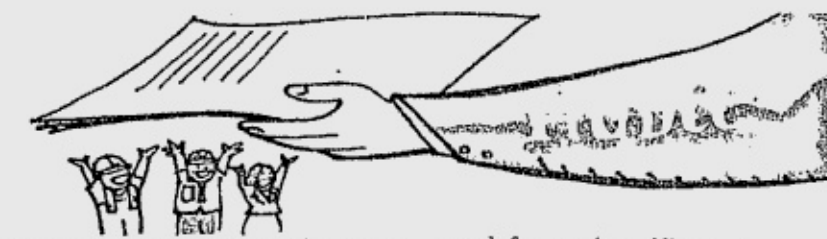
This was revealed by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council as it approved last Sept. 17, the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board resolution 748.

The said resolution moves to relax the requirement, which is a precondition to the issuance of the certificates and licenses to developers.

The resolution, according to HLURB Commissioner and CEO Romulo Fabul is a product of suggestions and ideas aimed at enhancing production and delivery of affordable housing in the country.

Government response

HUDCC vice chair Amado Bagatsing said the issuance of HLURB resolution was also part of the govern-



ment response to developer's request to implement Executive Order 45 as soon as possible.

EO 45 provides for specific timelines for approval of government permits and clearances as well as simplification of requirements and simultaneous processing of housing related permits and licenses of various agencies assigning specific task force for each process.

"The HLURB resolution is a welcome development as it not only assure the attainment of our earlier pledge to deliver 200,000 new housing units," said SHDA president and Robinsons Homes VP and GM Marilu Alferez.

Sole regulatory body

Formerly the Human Settlements Regulatory Commission, the HLURB is the sole regulatory body for housing and land development that ensures rational land use for the equitable distribution and enjoyment of development benefits.

The board is charged with encouraging greater private sector participation in low-cost housing through liberalization of development standards, simplification of regulations and decentralization of ap-

provals for permits and licenses.

It extends comprehensive and productive planning assistance to provinces, cities and municipalities toward the formulation of Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs).

Actively participated

Land-use planning is actively participated by several government agencies and departments including the Department of Interior and Local Government, DAR, HLURB, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Tourism and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Alferez also noted that SHDA developers have consistently pointed out that the land-use planning in every local government unit is effectively a government interagency exercise in forward master planning, allocation and zoning of the country's land resources.

"Thus, physical master planning of cities and municipalities under the initiative and control of government constitutes wholesale evaluation and issuances of land conversions with official concurrence of the DAR," Alferez said.

SM City Lucena opens Oct. 3

SM CITY Lucena, the 15th SM supermall, will be open to the public on Friday.

Strategically located on a 79,503 square-meter property at the intersection of the Pagbilao National Road and Dalahican Road, the access to the Dalahican Fish Port and Shipping Terminal, SM City Lucena will serve customer in the Southern Tagalog region. Because Quezon province serves as a gateway to mainland Luzon from the Bicol region and island provinces Marinduque, Romblon and Masbate, it will also be a destination for those traveling to the province.

Lucena City is the capital and center of trade, commerce, government, education and financial services of Quezon. It is home to the more influential families of the province, and its surrounding municipalities share much of its cultural and artistic heritage. Lucban, which is best known for the Pahiyas festival, and Tayabas near the popular Mount Banahaw, are both tourist destinations.

Other nearby towns have thriving industries: Pagbilao is home to the 700 MW Hopewell Philippines Coal Terminal Plant; Sariaya is popular for wood furniture making; while Candelaria houses most of the country's producers of desiccated coconut and coconut oil.

3-level supermall

Only 1.8 kilometers northeast of the city proper, the SM site is a 10-minute ride from the city center, 15 minutes from the Dalahican Fish Port and 12 minutes from the Daang Maharlika Highway bypass.

The three-level supermall is 70,056 sq. m. in floor area and will bring SM's shopping, leisure and entertainment excitement to the Southern Tagalog region. It has over 150 tenants and will merge SM anchors, local and international chains as well as homegrown Quezon shops and restaurants.

SM City Lucena was designed by Design International, a foreign design consultant and

as G & W Architects for its architecture, Monolith Construction and Development Corp. as general contractors and DA Abcede Associates as project manager.

Shopping excitement

Leading the shopping excitement is the SM Department Store, the trendsetter and innovator that has become part of the lives of many Filipinos, and the SM Supermarket, which combines the exciting merchandising concepts with the latest supermarketing technology. The supermall will have SM mainstays like the SM Appliance Center, Ace Hardware, Watsons, Our Home, Surplus Shop and Toy Kingdom as well as fashion boutiques, jewelry and home stores, novelty shops and service outlets. It will have a computer and telecom stores for the cyber generation.

Eating out options include good fast food at the SM Food Court as well as an exciting mix of international food chains like Pizza Hut and Kenny Rogers, local food chains like Jollibee and Red Ribbon as well as homegrown food outlets like Cherry Blossom and Koffee Klatch and Buddy's Restaurant, which will be opening later.

The mall will also have four state-of-the-art cinemas and amusement centers. A bowling center will be opening in the coming months. Lucena residents will be happy to know that it has homegrown outlets.

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Searching for your dream home

By Alexis A. Acacio

IN LOOKING for the home of your dreams, there is a simple acronym that I have devised, to remind the smart real estate shopper on the qualities that they should look for in a real estate investment.

In helping you decide on your home purchase, you may follow the criteria of the acronym DREAM which means:

BUILDING DREAMS

(D)urable
(R)easonably
priced
(E)nergy efficient
(A)ppealing
(M)arketable

Durable

By all means, your home should be durable. It does not exactly mean that because you have a limited budget, then the builder has a reason to make it weak and not durable.

Select materials that you feel would stand the weather and the environment in the area where you plan to build. If you want to build in the mountains and the weather is always damp and moist, then materials that are durable when continuously exposed to moisture and rain should be used.

If you are on flat ground and near the beach shoreline, then try to minimize the use of steel in your homes for these can corrode easily thereby shortening their design life. Perhaps you can select materials that are durable even when continuously exposed to seashore weather. Natural wooden materials are perfect for small beach homes.

Reasonably priced

It is always an issue of how much you are willing to pay for a specific home feature that you would want. If a modular kitchen system is very important to you, then your budget should be able to support this priority.

Affordability depends really on how much money you have and how much you are willing to spend. You are not really spending when you buy a home—you are simply converting your cash into a real estate asset. Should you need to



best for your home. It is always a question of cost versus the benefit that it can provide.

Using insulation for the roofing system would keep you cool when it is warm outside. Insulation material does this by preventing most of the heat that is directed to your roof. By this you would need less cooling effort from your air conditioners. An insulated attic floor, coupled with wide windows that provide a lot of ventilation will reduce your cooling costs and you may not even need an air conditioner at all.

Appealing

A well-designed home need not be expensive. We all have different tastes and a beautiful home for one may not be so for another. Always follow your heart's desire in choosing the architecture that you want. If you want a pink roof, then go ahead, have it.

To have the design and style that you want, it takes a lot of meetings and consultations with your home designer. Sometimes, schematic plans will have to be redone all over again. The secret here is to be patient and frank in telling your designer what you really need in the home of your dreams.

Marketable

The home that you will build today may no longer be your home after 10 years. Our needs change and so we have to renovate and upgrade our existing homes.

What I mean by having a marketable home is that you should design by selling in mind. In the future, when the time comes for you to sell your home, you should not have a problem convincing potential buyers because the layout is functional, practical and your house is well built.

Marketability can also be internal—the home should appeal to the end users themselves. If in a few years you will have young adults in the house, the renovation of other spaces into other functional spaces for teenagers (like a billiard room) should be seen well in advance. By this you will save yourself away from the costs of demolition. Follow the DREAM to build your dream!!!

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CREBA/ B8

Creba sets sight on \$27-B Filipino-American market

OPPORTUNITIES in the United States through what is described as "A \$27-Billion Filipino American Market" for the Philippine real estate industry will be among the topics taking center stage during the joint 2003 national convention of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council. It will be held Oct. 2-4 at the Holiday Inn, Mimosa Leisure Estate in Clark Field, Pampanga.

Creba national president Florentino S. Dulalia Jr. and overall convention chair Pedro C. Tario said the convention, with its theme "Sustainable Urban Development: A Key to a Strong Republic," will equally focus on key issues of housing and sustainable urban development. HUDCC vice chair Amado S. Bagatsing and Creba executive vice president Purita R. Soliven are overall convention co-chairpersons.

Filipino-American speakers during the forum on the US market are lawyer Avelino Halagao, president of the Metro Washington D.C. Creba chapter; Michael F. Gaviola, organizer of the East Coast Creba chapter; Renato C. Fajardo, president, and Bobby de Guzman, vice president, and lawyer Rhea Marife S. Fajardo, Los Angeles California Creba chapter.

\$27-B market

"Five generations of three million Filipino-Americans represent a \$27-billion market for the Philippine real estate industry," according to Ed T. Pascual, a Filipino-American realtor and marketing guru based in Los Angeles.

Also joining the Creba convention to push for attention on the rich potentials of the US market for local developers and professionals, Pascual is president of the US-based Unigroup Resources Inc. as well as president and chair of Philippine-based Ed

T. Pascual Realty Inc. and Bahay Builders Inc.

The market worth of the US market, he explained, combines both the savings and family income of some 600,000 families living in the US and Canada or North America. Hence the term "Filipino-Americans."

Panel discussions will follow on "Global Business Opportunities in Real Estate" to be tackled by George Henefeld, president, American Chamber of Commerce; and William Bailey, president, European Chamber of Commerce.

Creba had earlier organized the Creba International Foundation to form international chapters abroad with the help of Filipino expatriates in the US, Canada, Europe and Asia, establish business development and strong linkages in the international market through technology transfer and information dissemination and draw up effective global marketing strategies, particularly among Filipino developers and foreign-based realty companies and developers.

Dulalia recently inducted Creba chapter officers in the US east coast at the instance of Creba chair Manuel M. Serrano and the chapter organizers. Seven US chapters have so far been organized. Soliven is the foundation president.

With international marketing becoming a major business trend, Creba is taking the challenge and seizing the tremendous opportunities, Dulalia said.

Quality projects

Through its Computerized Land Information Management System (CLAIM), Soliven said Creba seeks to provide quality projects and standardized services to the primary target market abroad, specifically Filipino professionals, American and other foreign investors inter-

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INVESTING IN M

ALFM still investors' top cho

AYALA Life Fixed Income Fund Inc (ALFM) continues to be the investors' number one choice. From only P51 million in December 1997, the fund's net asset value has grown to over P13 billion in December 2002, and over P17 billion in September 2003.

Its market dominance can be attributed to the continued confidence of the Fund's investors on the quality of the Fund's assets as well as on its income-generating capacity. With the Fund's consistent above-average perfor-

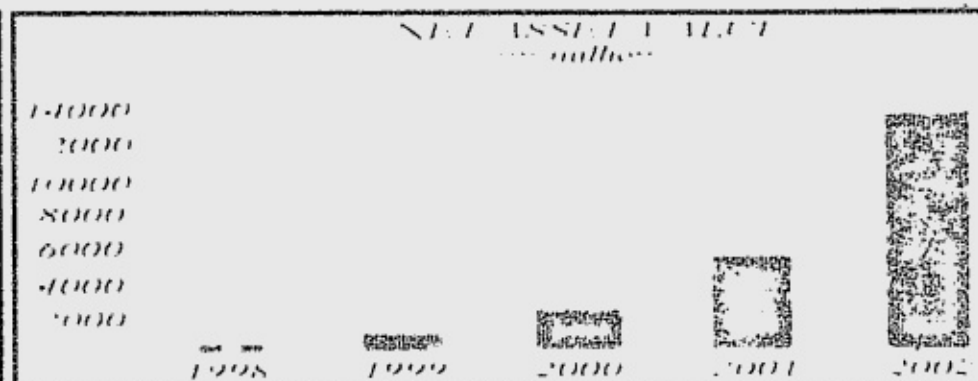
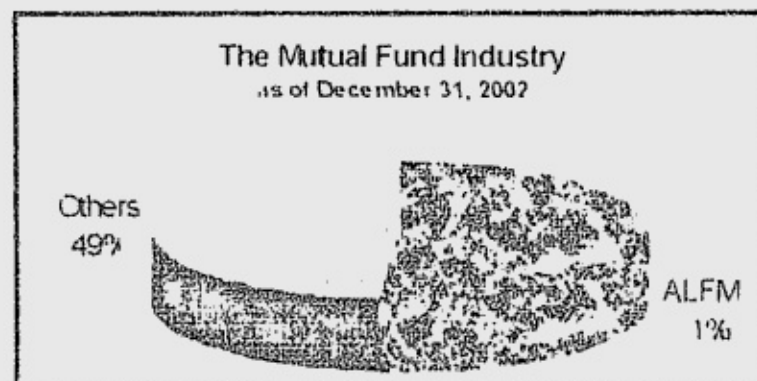
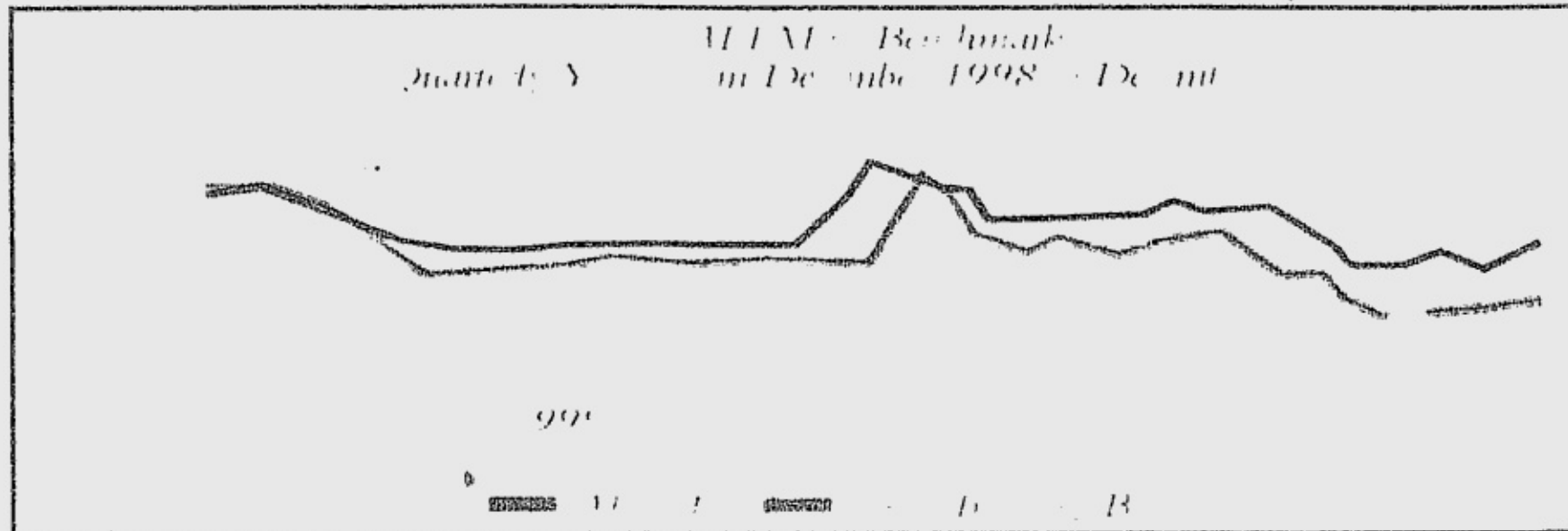
mance, ALFM has been investors' prudent logical choice.

Capturing more than 50 percent of the market as of year-end 2002, ALFM remains the leader in the local mutual fund industry. ALFM provides investors with advantages normally enjoyed by large institutional accounts and high net worth individuals.

With a minimum investment of P100,000, investors enjoy the benefit of professional fund management, a diversified investment portfolio, and higher income potential.

In addition, qualified individual investors can avail of life insurance coverage of P200,000 with ALFM Assurance Inc.

ALFM is committed to provide investors with a conservative investment vehicle that maximizes returns on medium- to long-term while consciously managing associated risks. Being a bond fund, ALFM maintains a diversified portfolio of high-grade government securities and other fixed-income instrument



PIFC is RP's first index tracker fund

MUTUAL Funds, a popular investment choice in more developed countries like the United States, Singapore, and those in Europe, among others, pertain to a pool of money from various investors and managed by a professional investment manager in accordance with certain pre-set investment objectives that can range from maximizing capital gains to providing a steady stream of income.

One type of mutual fund is the equity fund, which is popular in the United States. Equity funds accounted for 49 percent of the overall US mutual fund industry by the end of 2001. Other types of mutual funds are the bond funds, index funds, balanced funds, and money market funds.

By investing in mutual funds, small investors are

afforded numerous benefits such as diversification across different types of securities and access to professionally managed portfolios.

In the Philippines, the first open-end mutual fund corporation, the Philippine Index Fund Corp. (PIFC) allows shareholders to get in and out of the fund at the prevailing net asset value. In addition, the Fund is ready to redeem the shares anytime during normal trading hours.

The Securities and Exchange Commission approved the incorporation of the PIFC on Dec 11, 2002. PIFC has an authorized capitalization of P500 million consisting of 500 million shares at P1 par value.

PIFC as an open-end mutual fund invests in listed equities included in the Philippine Stock

Exchange Composite Index (Phisix). Its primary investment objective is to provide investors with investment returns that mimic the performance of Phisix.

By investing in PIFC, shareholders get the benefit of diversification since by buying shares in the Fund, they automatically invest in a portfolio of stocks representing the Philippine stock market. PIFC provides diversification, which reduces the risk for investors compared to the option of going directly to the Exchange and buying individual stocks. PIFC is best suited for equity investors seeking to achieve the returns that approximate the Phisix at a relatively low cost with the least effort.

Mutual funds in more sophisticated countries

IN MORE sophisticated global equities markets where the performance of stock market indices are often highly correlated with the success stories of their national economies, index or tracker funds have become popular among investors. These funds are designed to provide returns that mimic or "track" the performance of certain stock market indices. These indices are often reflective of the mood and trend of the entire stock market or a particular sector of the market. Thus, the investor is, in effect, "buying the market" so to speak - i.e., betting on that particular stock market's future performance and, for that matter, that country's economic growth.

As with all other investment instruments, index funds offer both advantages and disadvantages. The most notable positive point is simplicity of monitoring. Since its investment portfolio is a virtual mirror image of the stock market index it is tracking in terms of composition and individual issue weightings, an improvement in the index will almost guarantee an appreciation in the net asset value (NAV) of the index fund. There would be less need to monitor the price performance of individual stocks or reading tortuous studies on which stocks to pick in designing the portfolio, and how to time the buying and selling calls of these shares. The focus will instead be on the

stock market index itself, and to a certain extent, the overall economic and corporate performance of the base country.

Ironically, this is its biggest disadvantage. During general market downturns, the index fund may not be able to prevent its yield performance from being dragged down either, since the underlying stocks are identical. Likewise, at times when certain sectors or individual stocks are significantly over- or underperforming the market, the index fund may not be able to take greater advantage of, or insulate itself as the case may be, from these developments since its mandate prevents it from straying too far away from the fixed composition of the index it is tracking.

For instance, it cannot exploit the stellar performance of an initial public offering if that issue is not part of the index. On the other hand, the index fund cannot fully divest from a sharp sell-down affecting an index stock unless that issue is deleted from the index itself.

There is also the aberration, albeit minimal, caused by costs and fees related to purchases and redemptions of new fund shares as well as transaction costs involving underlying shares in the portfolio. This is referred to as "tracking error." Tracking error usually occurs when these fees cause a drag in the NAV of the fund. It may also be ob-

served when stock weightings of the index change and the index fund is not able to adjust its portfolio composition immediately to correspond to these changes due to lack of market liquidity of the securities involved. A sizable purchase of new index fund shares would also result in a large cash component in the portfolio, which may not be converted immediately to the underlying stocks. This may also cause a temporary discrepancy between the index and the index fund's returns. Thus, the performance of the index fund will closely adhere but not necessarily be the same as, that of the index it is tracking.

In the Philippines, there is yet no market experience with index funds. This is both a strength and weakness for investors. Having no predecessors, the pioneer index fund would have no records to compare with. On the other hand, having little or no competition, it can exploit the market with less friction or incidental costs than if it were competing in a mature industry.

At this point, with the Philippine stock market apparently having bottomed out already, the emergence of index funds like the Philippine Index Fund Corp. (PIFC) would be very timely. It could enable investors to ride the potential bull market trend and thus, maximize returns on initial investments.

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Easier access to mutual funds

MUTUAL funds like the Ayala Life Fixed Income Fund Inc. are available only through SEC-licensed mutual fund agents and authorized distributors. In order to sustain market leadership and dominance, ALFM expanded its distribution channels. With the addition of BPI Capital Corp and BPI Securities Corp to the roster that initially included BPI Investment Management Inc. and Ayala Financial & Insurance Services Inc., more investors can now have easier access to ALFM's value-added features.

Investing in Ayala Life Fixed Income Fund

What You Should Know When Investing In ALFM

UNDERSTANDING MUTUAL FUNDS: Mutual funds are investment vehicles that pool money from many investors to purchase a diversified portfolio of securities. They are managed by professional fund managers. Mutual funds are not deposit products and are not insured by FDIC. Yields are not guaranteed. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

HOW TO INVEST: You can invest in ALFM through a mutual fund agent or authorized distributor. You can also invest directly with ALFM. The minimum investment is P100,000. Subsequent investments can be made at any time.

REDEMPTION: You can redeem your investment in ALFM at any time. The redemption price is based on the net asset value (NAV) of the fund. There is a 1% redemption fee for investments made within 90 days of the date of purchase.

FEES: Mutual funds charge various fees, including sales loads, management fees, and administrative fees. These fees can reduce your investment returns. Before investing, you should understand the fees associated with the fund.

RISKS: Mutual funds are subject to market risk. The value of your investment can go up or down. You should understand the risks associated with the fund before investing.

HERE ARE A FEW INVESTMENT TIPS:

- First of all, determine your investment objectives. Ask yourself what is your investment goal. Is it preserving principal? Accumulating income? Paying for a child's education? Saving for retirement? Improving your home? Whatever your investment objective, investing in ALFM can help you achieve these financial goals.
- Be sure that you are comfortable with taking on the risks associated with the mutual fund you are considering. A fixed-income fund like ALFM is generally considered as the most conservative of mutual funds compared to stock funds and balanced funds.
- Learn more about the fund manager. What is the reputation and track record of the fund manager?
- Get and understand as much information as you can about the fund from its Prospectus and Annual Report.
- Study the mutual fund's table of fees. Most, if not all, published historical rates of return do not include sales loads in the form of front-end commissions and/or back-end or redemption charges. These financial costs have the effect of lowering an investor's actual yield. Compare the various fees among various funds before choosing a fund. Whether these fees are charged to you or to the Fund, these charges will lower your investment rate of return.

- Finally, once you have narrowed down your choices, understand exactly what each mutual fund is offering you. For example:

1. What is the minimum investment required?

The minimum initial investment in ALFM is P100,000.

2. Does investing in the fund come with other benefits?

In the case of ALFM, individual investors are eligible to receive a free life insurance coverage of P200,000, issued by Ayala Life Assurance.

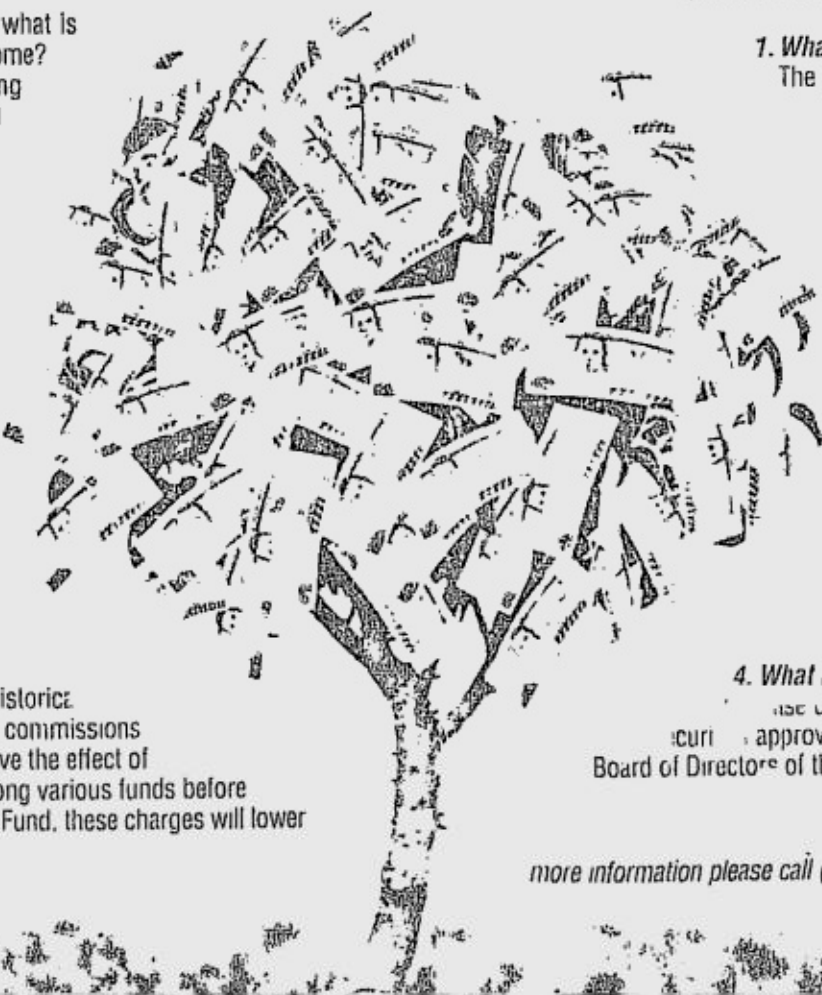
3. Is the fund associated with a large and reputable organization?

Remember that

4. What is the investment policy of the fund?

The investment policy of ALFM is to invest in a diversified portfolio of fixed-income securities, approved by the Board of Directors of the Fund.

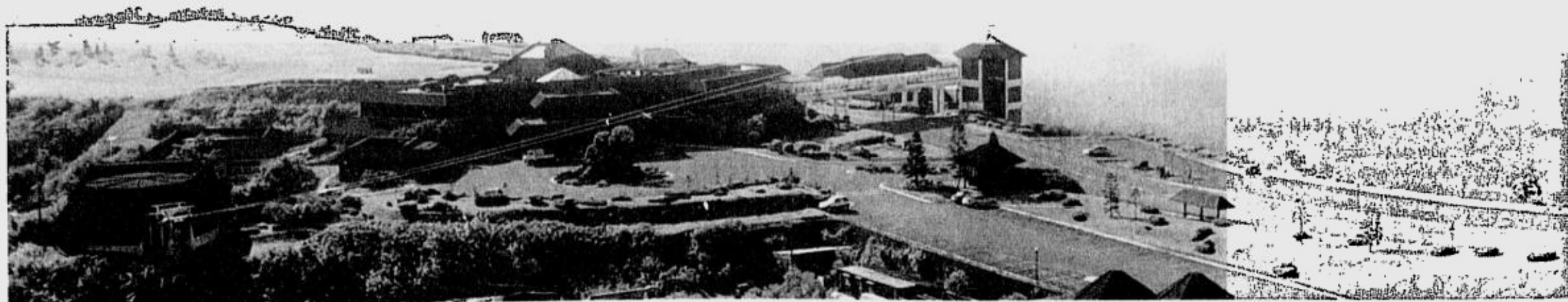
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COMMUNITIES carved out of mountains

Leisure estate offers 'organic' farming, plants 1-M trees



HENRY Ocier, consultant for Highlands-wide ecological program, and Rudy Aninipot, assistant vice president for property management and chief engineer for the Highlands

Text by Tessa R. Salazar
Photos by Genie Lagman

A DEVELOPER known for creating a so-called "self-contained leisure paradise" in Tagaytay may join the bandwagon of developers venturing into leisure farm estates in the south.

But there's a twist. This developer will eschew fertilizer-free leisure farming and plant a million more trees in a nearby plot. The tree-planting program would span five decades.

Belle Corporation, the creator of Tagaytay Highlands, and its real estate partners who went through rigorous soil and structural engineering studies and carved communities out of mountains more than 10 years ago to craft a golfer's paradise and posh residential estates, is set to launch Plantation Hills.

Plantation Hills is an organic leisure farm estate to be located at Tagaytay Greenlands.

The Highlands ecological team, for instance, intends to plant 1 million non-timber trees and process wet garbage into fertilizer that would use no chemicals and only all-natural methods in a process called vermiculture.

Belle Corp.'s farm estate will initially offer 750 to 2,500-sq.-m. farm lot units in Tagaytay Greenlands, which is within the Highlands estate.

Plantation Hills farm lot unit owners would be required to engage in farming activities and allot only 25 percent of the owned property to residential structures. This structure-to-lot ratio would be ideal for country homes and organic farming.

Firsts in RP

Apart from creating structures on top of a ridge, Tagaytay Highlands boasts of many "firsts."

It became the talk of the town in the 1990s when it built the first funicular (monorail transport built on a steep slope), cable cars, and diagonal tube elevators, among others.

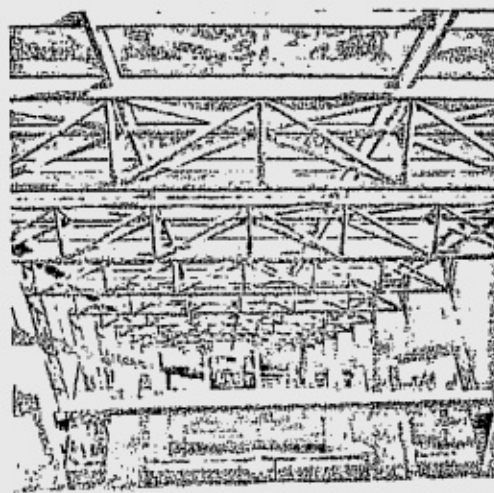
These innovations served to adapt to the

Tagaytay Highlands is a master planned blending of natural and man-made wonders dedicated to leisure at its best

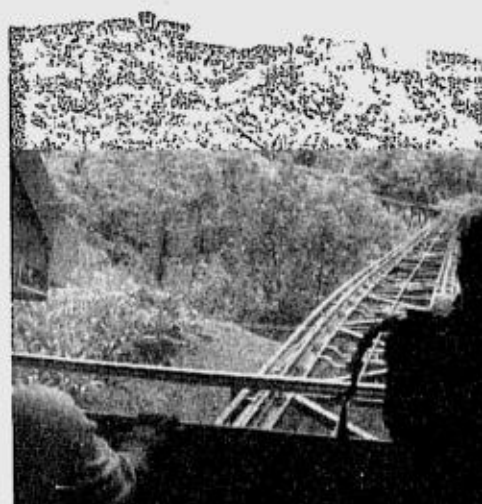
terrain of Tagaytay Highlands. For instance, the cable car system bridged the considerable gap in elevation between the last and the first holes of each nine of the golf course. The cable car thus ferried golfers from the 9th and 18th holes to the first and 10th tees.

The 48-seater funicular that climbs and goes down a 500-foot-high mountain takes members from Tagaytay Highlands to Midlands in less than four minutes.

Unusually shaped diagonal elevators of the Belle View building (a hillside condominium development built on a ridge overlooking Taal Lake) also provide a marvelous 180-degree view of Taal Lake and the volcano. The tube



UNUSUALLY shaped diagonal elevators of the Belle View



THE 48-SEATER funicular from the inside—a monorail transport built on a steep slope

elevators follow the incline of the staircase shape of the Belleview building, which in turn follows the slope of the mountain the building is built upon.

Building structures on mountaintops or on slopes is not an easy task. Belle View is built on 180 "pylons." If one removes all the earth under the building, one could actually see the building leaning on "stilts."

Belle Corp. vice president for marketing Belinda Lim Herrera believes that Belle View is an example of a modern building that emphasizes structural integrity rather than looks.

Mountain carved

Belle Corp vice chair Willy Ocier recalled that the entire leisure estate had undergone vigorous soil and structural engineering studies. Even now, he said, homeowners of Woodlands who wish to expand or modify their log houses are required to consult a structural engineering group first to determine how it would affect the load-bearing capabilities of the mountain.

"The stability of the soil is the primary concern in residential development," he said.

Tagaytay Highlands became a status symbol of sorts with the help of an 18-hole golf course designed by American golf architect Richard Bigler. The course is challenging as it follows the natural contours of Tagaytay ridge and its slopes.

Its makers cited the tee for the 513-yard 13th hole was 84 meters above the green. Sand traps and man-made lakes test golfers'



THE CABLE cars ferry golfers from the 9th and 18th holes to the first and 10th tees.

accuracy. Hills and gullies add pressure to the game. The mountain itself, it seems, is always an opponent.

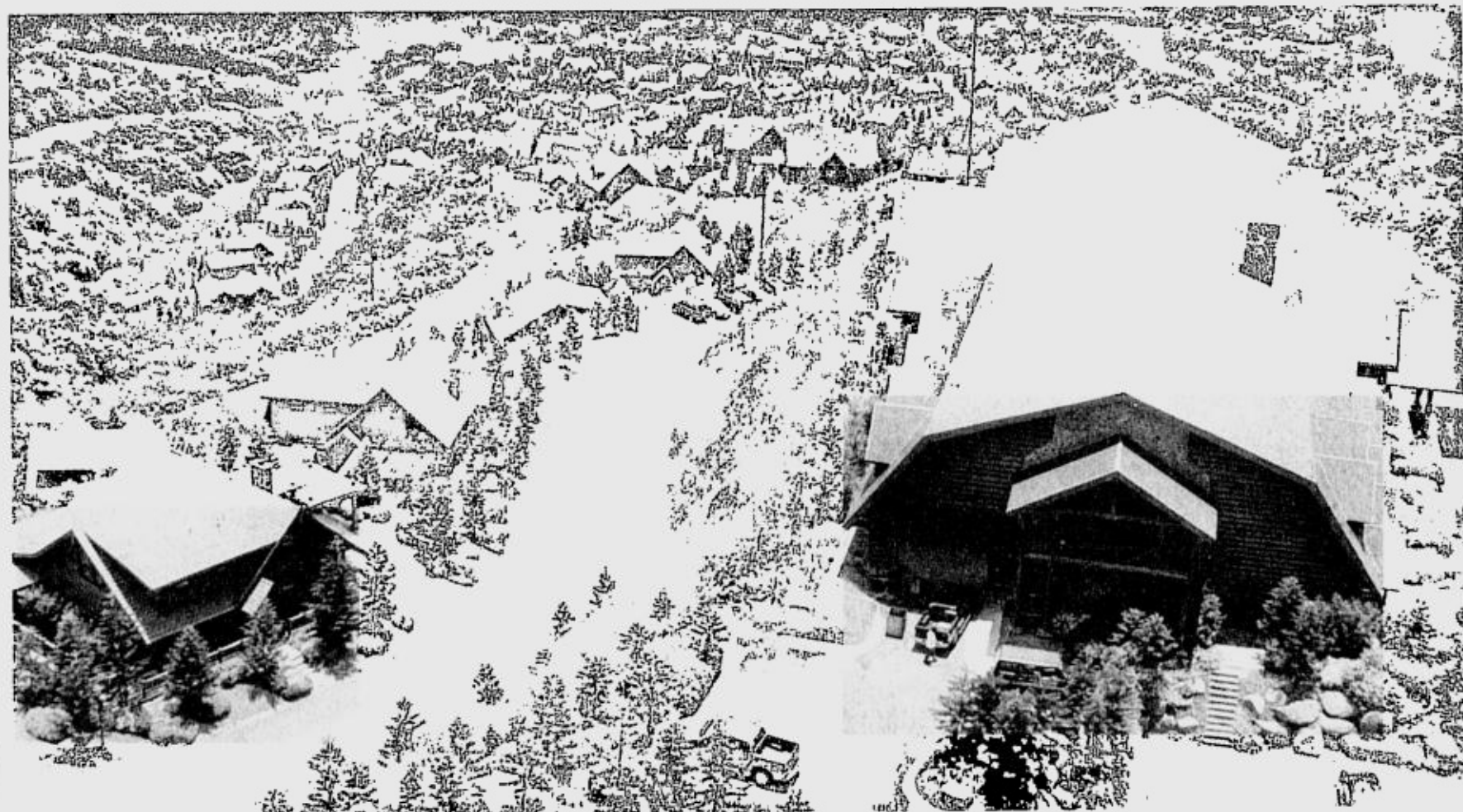
But it also provides breathtaking views while you map out your swing. The backdrop in the first and 10th tees is serene Taal Lake and the seething volcano. Succeeding holes accord players expansive views of Laguna de Bay, the mountains of Makiling and Banahaw, the urban sprawl of Metro Manila, and even a glimpse of Batangas Bay and Mindoro Island.

4 residential projects

Tagaytay Highlands features four residential projects with varying themes. A complex condominium community, much like Swiss chalets, is called Pinecrest Village, Spanish-Mediterranean-detached homes are called The Villas, there's the hillside condo-on-a-ridge Belleview, and luxury log houses in Woodlands. Houses at the Woodlands are built with solid Western Red Cedar logs imported from the United States.

Its other projects in Highlands include a country club that houses specialty restaurants featuring Japanese, Thai, Italian and Mongolian cuisine, plus an Irish Pub and a French café. The club's China Palace lives up to its grand name, its two levels accommodating up to 400 diners. There are six specialty restaurants of the Golf clubhouse.

Situated at one of the highest points in Tagaytay Highlands is the Woodridge residential condominium project that is about to be completed. Lakeview Heights at the Midlands offers homes for contemporary dwellers.



LOG houses are built of western red cedar logs imported from the United States

Leisure Farms forges joint venture with Ponderosa Farms

LANDCO Pacific Corp.'s Leisure Farms recently signed a joint-venture agreement with Ponderosa Farms at Makati Garden Club as the developer of the Philippines' first flower garden resort in Silang, Cavite.

Dubbed "Ponderosa by Leisure Farms," the project is a 52-hectare Spanish-Mexican themed flower farm village, just one hour away from Metro Manila.

"Ponderosa by Leisure Farms" is the first development that combines a garden community with residential resort features," says Alfred Xerez-Burgos III, group head of Leisure Farms. "It is the ultimate in country living in terms of quality of location, development and lifestyle activities."

Equipped with recreational amenities and

complete facilities, the project will feature flower and ornamental demo gardens, a commercial center marketplace, restaurant and grill are currently in the making, Farm management services will also be available to facilitate maintenance of residents' gardens.

Ponderosa by Leisure Farms is Landco Pacific's second hobby farm project, following the success of Leisure Farms, the country's first hobby farming and agro-tourism community in Lemery, Batangas.

Present during the signing ceremonies were Alfred Xerez-Burgos III; Carlos Perez-Rubio, VP Ponderosa Farms Inc.; Alfred Xerez-Burgos Jr., Landco Pacific CEO; Ma. Luisa Prez-Rubio, president, Ponderosa Farms; and Francis V. Ceballos, Landco Pacific COO.

Creba sets sight on \$27-B. . .

From page B5

ested in buying Philippine property.

The Creba federation also aims to source out quality projects for the world market, plan and implement effective promotion programs to widen the network of accredited developers with highly marketable projects.

CLAIMS, Soliven said, is a vehicle to improve the security of tenure, create greater confidence in the land investment climate, introduce more dynamism in the realty industry, facilitate investments by overseas Filipinos, and improve the quantity and quality of real estate industry players.

Sustainable Asian cities

Tario said Dr. Nathaniel Von Einsiedel, president of the Urban Partnership Foundation, will discuss "Building Sustainable Cities of the Future: A Chal-

lenge to Local Governments." Einsiedel is a former Creba national president and former regional coordinator for Asia Pacific and United Nations Urban Management Program based in Bangkok, Thailand. Marikina City Mayor Ma. Lourdes C. Fernando and Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn, along with experts from Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia, will talk on their respective urban centers as striving models of sustainable Asian cities.

Joining the discussions on this and other issues are Sen. Francis Pangilinan Jr., Rep. Prospero C. Nograles, DILG Secretary Jose D. Lina, HUDCC chair Michael T. Defensor, HUDCC vice chair Amado S. Bagatsing, Pag-Ibig Fund, president Romero E.S. Quimbo, National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. president Angelico T.

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The convention coincides with the 30th foundation anniversary of Creba, the oldest and largest industry organization. It was formed 30 years ago by a small group of developers and professionals led by lawyer Manuel M. Serrano, incumbent board chair. Its overriding objective is to buttress efforts to make housing and urban development a major pump-primer of the national economy.

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nr UST 0917-8102903

NR LA SALLE TAFT

BnewTwnhse 3stry, 3br/3b/grge
 P3.295M 8903461 loc 34

PASIG

VVERDE 2 60m² 2M 9122304

QUEZON CITY

Cubao 1.4M 10m² DP 9132224

*CUBAO CONDO

No D/P Pagibig 09179102903

On Antonio Hts 115m² 9122304

LGM Thaus 6.5M neg
 202Floor Area 4TB Swin-
 ming Pool, Gazebo, Basket-
 ball Court, Tennis T4351779
 3 6 1 0 8 5 5 9 2 4 1 6 4 7
 09178410620 Text Message

Rushi Ferdinandina 88 100sqm
 4.5M Neg 3br 2lb 0917-8143792

SCT CASTOR NR MORATO
 3br/3b1crg 2.8M neg 6873372

The
TOWER
 at Emerald Square

READY FOR OCCUPANCY

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 0917-8417590 Buyer's Price

PROVINCIAL

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 Coldest Spot T6588704 Tolle

Laguna South Pt 40m² 9122304

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RAVILANDS

Bugallon Pangasinan/
 32.00sqm P90/sqm DBO
 Niida de Guzman 09167678186

*SUBIC 48has@200m²

neg, w/fruit trees 047-9134120

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANDALUYONG

PASIG

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

20T/mo FILINVEST II
 fullyfurn 09273451913 Jun

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2Bd/m² W/Dn T8973770 • 1CR
 Sigh20/Npnt/Screen/Cmpd

QUEZON CITY

U/D 2BR nr Buendia, Cash &
 Carry. Renovated • 747-0101

QUEZON CITY

8T W/BUS SPACE 3739837

CUBAO P3.5T Std Lady 9124428

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ROOM & BOARD

CARSHIP FAB CUBAO 723-3697

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#5 MASIKAP st. nr V.Luna
 Hosp 7242629 or 7414555

2Ldy 2.8ea nr LaSalle 9530043

A/C nr LaSalle 2.8ea 9530043

Resdn'l/Furnish 2PerRm
 Male Single Bed T897-3770

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 1st Class bldg 95/129, 148-185m²
 8903461 loc 34 or 19 alc hrs

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2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

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 73.40m² 10pk All-In 4121825

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'83 A/T WELL MAINTAINED
 Dark Gray P415T ALL ORIG.
 Call 09198516193

'83 A/T WELL MAINTAINED
 Dark Gray P350T ALL ORIG.
 Call 09198616193

MITSUBISHI

'00 Adventure GLX green old
 look 4618316 / 09193882770

TOYOTA

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 12seater 170T 0919-8237786

96 XE CD ready P280T
 w/alarm 0919-8237786

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 Financing w/ Warranty neg
 A1 9120547; 0917-8342020

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 CHIDONG DREDGER 12"
 O DISCHARGE ENGINE
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TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

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1T/Hlacc 9136710/4333682

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 MLA HO 836-8822 • 303-9789
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 CARS/VANS/REVO 8006595

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SALES/SLADY 18-22 yrs. 5'2"
 Coll Level 724-9328 724-9330

BUYING USED CARS 8890215



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
 P.O. BOX 789 Manila, Philippines
 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
 email: adjusupbekova@adb.org or dmuno@adb.org

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

FOR THE PROVISION OF SAFETY AND SECURITY SERVICES AT
 ADB HEADQUARTERS
 (Contract No. ADB/OAS-2003/057)

- The Asian Development Bank ("ADB"), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites interested companies to apply for prequalification in the re-bidding for the provision of safety and security services at ADB Headquarters Building at No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines. The Contractor shall provide security and safety services to comply with ADB's security and safety programs comprising (a) Physical Security; (b) Incident Coordination and Security Operations Center Services; (c) Traffic and Carpark Control; (d) Executive Protection Services; (e) Investigation Services; (f) Security Training Certification Services; and (g) Miscellaneous Security Services, for the protection of ADB's property, assets and personnel. The detailed scope of services is given in the Work Performance Statement (Appendix 1 of the Contract).
- As a minimum requirement, applications must have:
 - Current certificate of License to Operate issued by the PNP SAGSD;
 - The minimum of five years continuous business operation/experience in providing security services as evidenced by Certificates of License to Operate for the past five years;
 - Authorized capitalization of at least PHP 3 million, total assets of at least PHP 5 million, and a sound financial and credit position, as evidenced by the agency's audited financial statements over the past three years;
 - Minimum of 500 experienced, physically fit and appropriately trained security personnel currently deployed with established and recognized clients such as embassies and other international organizations, large commercial banks, hotels, industrial firms and multinational companies.

Aside from this minimum criteria listed in paragraph 2 above, ADB's Procurement Committee will evaluate applicants on the basis of Agency Profile (approach and methodology; total assets; number of uninterrupted years of experience in the security business; total number of security personnel currently deployed with clients; services currently offered; logistics; level of computerization of office operations; number of headquarters office staff, ownership of headquarters building; proximity of headquarters to ADB; number of hours and days of operation in the headquarters; affiliation/membership in major security/safety organizations; and number of pending labor/civil/criminal cases filed against the company); (ii) Personnel Profile (management personnel and guard force) and Clientele Profile (hotels/commercial bans and embassies).

3. The contract shall be for two years and thereafter ADB has the option to renew the contract every year for a maximum of five years.

4. Eligible applicants may obtain the prequalification documents by calling, writing or faxing the Contracts Section, General Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, room 4219 North, No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines, at Tel. Nos. 632-4231/4216 (fax: 636-2567) from 29 September to 7 October 2003 (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Grounds 1 • Ruffing 1145 • Telway 270 • 24 hours
Maintenance • 24 hours • Telway 1132

RUTHERFORD FUNERAL HOME
1201 Cornerstone St. Passaic City, N.J. 07055
Socoral Branch: 6100 Dr. A. Passaic City, N.J. 07055
Telway 876 276 6222 • 24 hours • 712-1201

SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Tusculum • Telway 1132
Tel. Mus. 841-0938 • Tel. Fax: Mus. 841-8224

SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
Enclot Grounds • 10000 Passaic Ave. • Telway 1132 • 702-204

ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIQUORI PARISH
Magallanes • Telway 1132 • 702-204

ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
10-19 15th Street • Telway 1132 • 702-204

ST. PETER FUNERAL HOME
10-19 15th Street • Telway 1132 • 702-204

ST. PETER FUNERAL HOME
10-19 15th Street • Telway 1132 • 702-204

UNIVERSAL FUNERAL SERVICE & MEMORIAL CHAPEL
2400 Hillside • Telway 1132 • 702-204

VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Office: Passaic • Telway 1132 • 702-204

WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1611 Hillside • Telway 1132 • 702-204

ZUASOLA FUNERAL HOMES
Bogota • Telway 1132 • 702-204

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR
Diliman, Quezon City**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

A. The University of the Philippines Diliman hereby invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility to bid for:

One (1) Canteen Concessionaire at UP Clark

B. Prospective bidders must have existing canteen concession/s and two (2) years operational experience

C. The following eligibility requirements in two copies, duly certified must be submitted to the Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO) at Instructional Materials Corp. Building (National Book Development Board), A. Regidor Street fronting the PAG-ASA Astronomical Observatory, U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City, to form the basis for evaluation and assessment for pre-qualification of bidders:

1. SEC/DTI/Cooperative Development Registration Papers
2. 2003 Business License/Permit
3. Income Tax Return for the last two (2) years (2001 & 2002) with accompanying Audited Financial Statements marked "RECEIVED" by the BIR
4. Company Profile
5. List of clients (past and present) with corresponding contract costs, references and supporting documents
6. List of company equipment and other assets
7. Statement of the company that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, offices or corporations

DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS WILL BE LISTED IN THE BID DOCUMENTS

The above mentioned requirements must be completely submitted in two (2) separate folders with **Table of Contents** and **properly tabbed**. Otherwise, the same will not be accepted by the SPMO.

NOTE: ONLY ELIGIBLE BIDDERS WILL BE ISSUED THE BID DOCUMENTS AND ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING.

D. Deadline for submission: October 7, 2003

E. Pre-bidding and bidding schedules shall be announced to all eligible bidders.

F. The University of the Philippines reserves the right to review the qualifications of all selected bidders subject to technical, financial and production criteria, reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the offer considered to be most advantageous to the University.

G. For further particulars, please inquire from Mr. Pedro E. Fajardo, Chief-SPMO, anytime during office hours at the above mentioned address or call Tel. No. 920-5374 (direct line) and 920-5301 local 4331, 4991 and 4913, or contact the Business Concessions Office (BCO) at Tel. No. 925-6996 and 920-5301 local 7926.

(Sgd.) **EMERLINDA R. ROMAN**
Chancellor

(PDI - Sept 23 & 30, 2003)

KEPCO PHILIPPINES CORPORATION / KEPKO ILLAN CORPORATION
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY TO BID

A. Kepco Philippines Corporation and Kepco Ilijan Corporation hereby invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility to bid for:

One-Year Freight Forwarding, Customs Brokerage and Inland Transportation Services

B. Prospective bidders must have at least three (3) years operational experience.
C. The following eligibility requirements in two copies duly certified must be submitted to the Procurement Department at 16th floor Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City, to form the basis for evaluation and assessment for pre-qualification of bidders.

1. SEC/DTI Registration Papers
2. 2003 Business Permit/License
3. Income Tax Return for the last two (2) years (2001 & 2002) with accompanying Audited Financial Statements marked "RECEIVED" by the BIR
4. Company Profile
5. Complete listing of partners or foreign agents worldwide
6. Copy of both local and international Forwarding and Brokerage licenses and accreditation, including the latest annual report submitted to respective associations
7. List of clients (past & present) especially in the power plant or related industries, with the corresponding summary of all importations
8. List of company equipment and other assets
9. A comprehensive Service Plan on how to handle our shipments in the event of contract award

NOTE:

- DETAILED SCOPE OF WORK AND COUNTRY OF ORIGINS WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE COMMERCIAL BID DOCUMENTS.
- ONLY ELIGIBLE BIDDERS WILL BE ISSUED THE BID DOCUMENTS AND ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING.

D. Deadline for submission: October 15, 2003

E. Pre-bidding and bidding schedules shall be announced to all eligible bidders.

F. Kepco Philippines Corporation and Kepco Ilijan Corporation reserves the right to review the qualifications of all selected bidders subject to technical and financial criteria, reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the offer considered to be most advantageous to the company.

G. For further particulars, please inquire from Mr. Erwin Patrick C. Candare, Procurement Officer, anytime during office hours at the above mentioned address or call Tel. No. 848-02-31 local (164) or send fax to 848-00-13 to 14.

(Sgd.) **JAE PYO CHOI**
General Manager
Administration Group

(PDI - September 30 and October 7, 2003)



Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

**RESOLUTION NO. 747**

Series of 2003

AMENDING SECTION 2.11 OF RULE I OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR MEMORIAL PARK/CEMETERY BY DELETING OPERATIONAL CLEARANCE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) AS ONE OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR FINAL PLAN APPROVAL OF MEMORIAL PARK/CEMETERY

WHEREAS, the Rules and Regulations for Memorial Park/Cemetery was approved per HLURB Board Resolution No. 681, Series of 2000 dated 21 September 2000;

WHEREAS, Section 2.11 of Rule I of the same Rules and Regulations requires submission of **BOTH INITIAL AND OPERATIONAL CLEARANCES** from DOH as part of the documentary requirements for the approval of final memorial/cemetery plan;

WHEREAS, Section 3 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Chapter XXI - "Disposal of Dead Persons" of the Sanitation Code of the Philippines (PD 856), provides that the operational clearance shall be issued by the Regional Health Director upon completion of the cemetery or memorial park of private burial ground and before its operation;

WHEREAS, there is a need to harmonize the Board's policies with the policies of other agencies concerned in the issuance of permits and clearances for memorial parks/cemeteries;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS THE SAME IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that **THE OPERATIONAL CLEARANCE** from DOH be deleted as one of the requirements for final plan approval of memorial park/cemetery project, thereby amending Section 2.11 of Rule I of the IRR for Memorial Park/Cemetery to read as follows:

XXX

Section 2. Application for Approval of Memorial Park/Cemetery Plan

I. XXX

II. XXX

A. XXX

J. Clearances/Permits/Certifications from agencies applicable to the project

XXX

4. Initial Clearance from the DOH

XXX

APPROVED this 20th day of August 2003.

Michael T. Defensor
MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR
Chairman

Jose C. Calida
JOSE C. CALIDA
Undersecretary, DOJ
Ex-Officio Commissioner

Romulo O. Fabul
ROMULO O. FABUL
Chief Executive Officer
and Commissioner

Edo R. Soliman, Jr.
EDO R. SOLIMAN, JR.
Undersecretary, DILG
Ex-Officio Commissioner

Teresito A. Desierto
TERESITO A. DESIERTO
Commissioner

Augusto B. Santos
AUGUSTO B. SANTOS
Deputy Director-General, NEDA
Ex-Officio Commissioner

Francisco L. Dagñalan
FRANCISCO L. DAGÑALAN
Commissioner

Joel I. Jacob
JOEL I. JACOB
DPWH
Ex-Officio Commissioner

Attested by:

Charito B. Lansang
CHARITO B. LANSANG
Board Secretary

(PDI - Sept. 30, 2003)

Taking grapes to heart

GRAPES have long been associated with good health and great taste. Current research indicates that grapes offer a unique phytochemical profile that includes significant antioxidant potential.

Resveratrol is found mainly in the skin of grapes. Researchers from the University of Illinois completed preliminary laboratory and animal studies released in January 1997 that indicated resveratrol inhibits tumor growth at three different stages of cancer.

Besides cancer research, grapes are also being studied for their cardiovascular benefits.

A study recently published in the Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, found that these same phytochemicals or phytonutrients are present in grapes and have the same benefits for human heart. This research conducted at the University of Connecticut found that table grapes protected the heart and blood vessels by preventing oxidative tissue damage, similar to the well-known effects of red wine.

Grapes are the predominant dietary source of resveratrol.

In March of 1997, researchers at the University of Wisconsin published results of preliminary studies that indicated that flavonoids present in grapes exhibit anti-clotting effects similar to those of aspirin. In 1998, an international symposium adjudged that grape and grape products were found to have significant potential in contributing to human health.

The symposium was developed and sponsored by California's fresh grape farmers, who supply over 97 percent of the table grapes grown in the United States. Fresh California Grapes is the biggest supplier of fresh grapes in the overseas markets.

Ongoing until Sept. 30 is the Fresh California Grapes Health Station Mall Tour. The consumer promotion is on its 5th year. The launch of the tour kicked off at Robinsons Place Manila and proceeded to Robinsons Metro East, SM North EDSA, SM Fairview, SM Megamall and SM Southmall September 25 to 30.

This mobile health station entitles customers of Fresh California Grapes free health check-ups consisting of body mass index, blood pressure check-up, flexibility and cardiovascular fitness tests.

Be a model!

Dream Cast 2

Personality Enhancement and Fashion Workshop
October 18 - November 29 The Forum, Podium

Personality Enhancement/Grooming

• OCTOBER 18, 2003 1:00PM - 6:00PM

Effective Communications

• OCTOBER 25, 2003 1:00PM - 6:00PM

Pictorial Session

• NOVEMBER 8, 2003 9:00AM - 6:00PM

Basic and Advanced Ramp Modeling

• NOVEMBER 15, 2003 9:00AM - 6:00PM

General Rehearsal

• NOVEMBER 22, 2003 9:00AM - 6:00PM

The Dreamcast Day

• NOVEMBER 29, 2003 11:00AM - CALL TIME

Registration Dates: September 10 - September 30, 2003 at the FORUM, PODIUM. HURRY! Limited slots only.
For inquiries call: The Forum at 6372630 ask for Joy or Text: Bing - 0917-626-1213 or Tinette - 0917-890-5116

OUR ENHANCEMENT PARTNERS

**OBITUARIES****Lourdes Adriatico de Leon**

*Died peacefully on September 27, 2003
at the age of 92.*

Her bereaved children **LAURA, ANTONIO, TEODORO, CARMELITA** and **EDGARDO**; their spouses **OTTO (†), VIRGILIO (†), ELINOR, ERLINDA, LULU, RODOLFO**, and **GLORIA**; grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose, East Greenhills.

Cremation at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat will follow on October 4, 2003 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Santuario.

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Date: 22 September 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. Contract Code: Sp03.BSSP-MI-0006
Title: Construction, Erection and Installation of 138KV Substation Equipment for the New Bunawan Switching Station
Location: Bunawan, Davao City
2. The works to be completed by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all superintendence, labor, materials, supplies, tools and equipment (except materials and equipment specified to be furnished by TRANSCO), and constructing complete the substation and installing all substation equipment to complete the Construction, Erection and Installation of 138KV Substation Equipment for the New Bunawan Switching Station in accordance with the Plans and Specifications. The work also includes site development, construction of new control house, warehouse, pumphouse and guardhouse, etc.
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid is SIXTY SIX MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY THREE PESOS (PHP66,740,883.00) from the Internal Cash Generation (ICG) of National Transmission Corporation.
4. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino contractors who have the legal, technical and financial requisites of the contract/project to be bid with the following License and Registration Particulars:
License: at least "Category AAA - Specialty: Electrical Works"
Registration: at least "Large B - Specialty: Electrical Works"
5. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by Transco in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
6. Eligibility Documents and Forms will be available for issuance on September 25, 2003 at the Bids and Contracts Management Department, National Transmission Corporation, Ground Floor, TransCo Building, Power Complex, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1104. Telefax No.: 921-2308 upon presentation of Letter of Intent, Contractor's License and a payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 per copy.
7. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before October 24, 2003 and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
8. Contractor, not year included in the Transco's List of Registered Contractors, who wishes to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A Certificate of Registration will be issued to contractors upon approval.
Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
Taxpayer's Identification Number;
Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including in the case of procurement of civil works, non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by the CIAP.
Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipt;
Contractor's License.
9. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all Bids or request for registration without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
10. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **WINIFREDO SM. PANGILINAN**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept 25 27 & 30, 2003)

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We gather your resumes and forward them to companies with employment needs.

BUSINESS

Manulife to buy firm

TORONTO/NEW YORK—Manulife Financial Corp. was on its way to become Canada's largest insurer on Sunday as it agreed to buy US life insurer John Hancock Financial Services Inc. for around \$10.8 billion.

The stock-swap deal, the largest corporate transaction in the United States this year, will also make Manulife the second largest in North America and No. 5 in the world.

Under the deal, John Hancock shareholders will receive 1.1853 Manulife common shares for each John Hancock share, pegging

them at \$37.60 or an 18.5 percent premium on Friday's share price.

The Canadian firm will get John Hancock's Nova Scotia-based Maritime Life unit.

The combined entity will earn cost savings of \$255 million after three years and will raise Manulife's net income by 6 cents a share.

In 2005, the deal is expected to boost profits by 23 cents per share, Manulife said. The combined company would have net income of \$1.4 billion and \$246 billion in assets under management, based on 2002 figures. *Reuters*

Asian markets skid on Wall St.

SINGAPORE—The dollar slid below 112 yen and the Nikkei led Asian markets lower on Monday after a grim performance by US stocks last week, but Japanese economic data this week was expected to keep selling pressure in check.

The Nikkei average was down 1.39 percent at 10,174.51 and the broader TOPIX index was down 0.81 percent.

MSCI's index of Asian markets outside of Japan, calculated in dollars, was down 0.51 percent, led by falls of around one percent in Hong Kong and Seoul.

Auto makers, including Honda Motor Co. Ltd., and other exporters were hurt by the yen's early strength. Honda, Japan's second-biggest auto maker, lost 4.7 percent and rival Toyota Motor Corp. gave up 1.18 percent.

Stocks with weaker earnings prospects, such as chemical maker Sumitomo Chemical Co. Ltd., were sold ahead of Japan's half-year reporting season starting next month.

Analysts said the market could show resilience above 10,000 points since this week's economic data, which includes the Bank of Japan's "tankan" corporate survey on Wednesday, was likely to show a sustainable economic recovery is on the way.

"I'm not worried about the downside so much," said Zenshiro Mizuno, senior managing director at Marusan Securities.

"That's because a sudden jump in the yen and a recent change in the New York market's course were partly discounted last week." Traders said a strong reading in the previous tankan report had

been a major factor behind previous foreign fund inflows into Japanese shares.

Hong Kong's leading share index also digested losses on Wall Street. The Hang Seng Index fell 1.05 percent to 11,171.14. Micro motor exporter Johnson Electric Holdings Ltd. was among the biggest losers, falling 0.85 percent.

Singapore shares opened little changed on Monday but United Overseas Bank (UOB) gained after the city state's largest domestic lender was named as one of the bidders for a stake in Indonesia's sixth-largest bank.

South Korean shares opened mixed on Monday. Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. was under pressure but many other blue chip shares gained. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index was down 0.9 percent at 691.09 points. *Reuters*



"Sir, pwede po bang mag-salary loan para 'di na ako mag 5-6."

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- Employees of accredited companies can avail of loans fast and easy through their HR or by logging on to www.eloans.com.ph
- For more information, call Tel. Nos. 687-9051, 687-0724, 638-4968 to 71 or e-mail us at eloans@asiaunited.com.ph



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www.asiaunited.com.ph

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HK, China sign details of trade deal

HONG KONG—Hong Kong and China finalized key details of a free trade deal on Monday, promising greater access to mainland China's markets for firms in the territory and zero tariffs for many Hong Kong goods.

The government will announce details early in the afternoon of the various deals, which come under the broader Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (Cepa) signed in June.

Cepa was widely seen as gift from Beijing to Hong Kong aimed at boosting the city's sputtering economy and alleviating public frustration with the city's China-backed government.

Telecommunications firms in Hong Kong are expected to gain greater access to the mainland China market under the deal, the South China Morning Post said.

But telecom companies will not be allowed to take controlling stakes in their Chinese counterparts, the paper quoted government sources as saying.

Other clauses that were signed included the definition of Hong Kong-made goods to be exempted from mainland tariffs.

Under the agreement signed in June, China agreed to eliminate tariffs on 273 types of Hong Kong goods from Jan. 1, 2004 and on all other goods by 2006.

The pact covers electrical and electronic products, textiles, clothing and jewelry among others. *Reuters*

China's forex reserves swell to record high

BEIJING—China's foreign exchange reserves swelled to a record at the end of August, but the pace of growth may ease due to a narrowing trade surplus and Beijing's refusal to revalue the yuan, putting the brakes on speculation.

The central bank said on Monday the reserves increased a monthly \$8.2 billion to \$364.7 billion in August, down from a \$10-billion average monthly rise in the first seven months of the year.

"Foreign exchange reserves are expected to continue to rise, but the pace of increase may slow, perhaps in the coming months," said Yiping Huang, Citigroup economist in Hong Kong.

"One thing is the trade surplus may continue to decline."

China's trade surplus with the United States rose to \$103 billion last year, but its overall surplus is falling sharply as deficits with Asian countries grow.

A government think-tank, the State Information Center, has forecast China's trade surplus could dive to \$5.5 billion in 2004 from \$11.8 billion this year and \$30.3 billion in 2002.

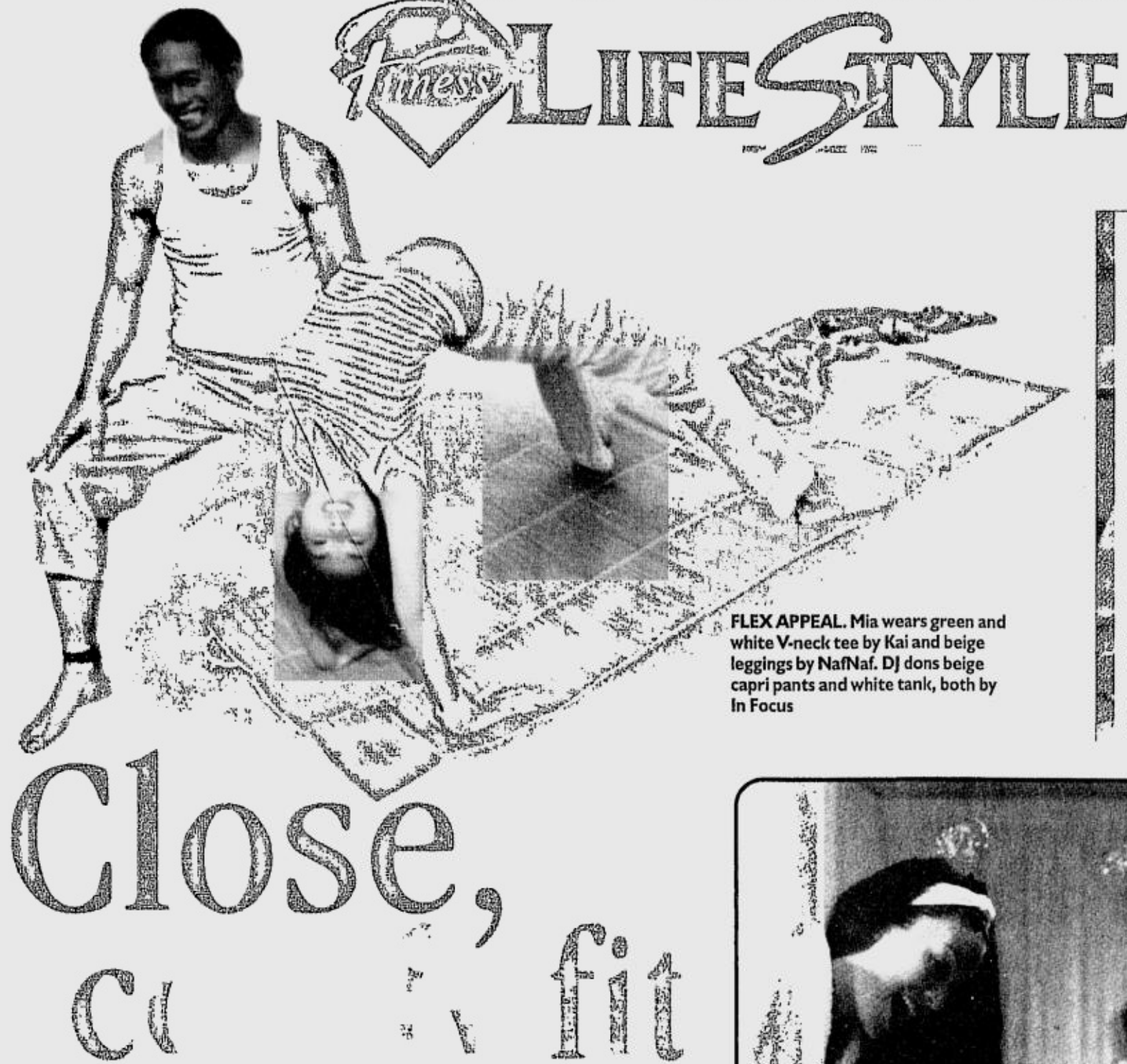
The yuan is pegged at around 8.28 to the US dollar, prompting criticism that it is artificially cheap and giving Chinese goods an unfair advantage.

US pressure for a revaluation of the yuan is unlikely to ease. A critical base of support for President George W. Bush in the run-up to next year's presidential election, US.

Manufacturers have shed some 2.7 million jobs over three years and blame China.

Speculation of an eventual yuan appreciation has fueled inflows of some speculative funds. Some analysts estimate between \$20 billion and \$30 billion in "hot money" flooded into China in recent months.

The central bank has to buy up dollars on the foreign exchange market to keep the yuan stable, pumping more yuan into the banking system and sparking worries of economic overheating. *Reuters*



FLEX APPEAL. Mia wears green and white V-neck tee by Kai and beige leggings by NafNaf. DJ dons beige capri pants and white tank, both by In Focus

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Unplugged
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SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 4

EXERCISE fads have come and gone but yoga and Pilates are two of the most famous fitness activities that have stayed.

Yoga is an ancient discipline that, through the years, has been fused with more modern fitness methods. Pilates is not new either, having been introduced in the West in 1926, its techniques originally based on mat exercises just like yoga.

Yoga and Pilates both require a great deal of patience and serenity, two virtues in short supply in this world. Their pursuit, however, can come after a fashion, in outlook and outfit.

As more young people have trained their

sights—and bodies—toward mantra heaven, the demand has increased for workout wear that goes beyond fleece, black-and-white exercise suits, and plain tanks and tees. For the young and the young-at-heart wellness buffs, Cinderella offers a whole new "Yogilates" ensemble in comfortable but trendy styles.

Now as girls relieve stress, gain coordination and balance, and lose weight, they not only feel good but look good in brightly colored tanks, halters and tube tops with different patterns and cuts paired with stretch jogging pants, shorts and capris in various hues, from sherbet pink to bold blues—clothes that can take them from gym to street.

On the other hand, why should boys suffer in tight leggings and cycling shorts when they can look hip in light and loose capris?



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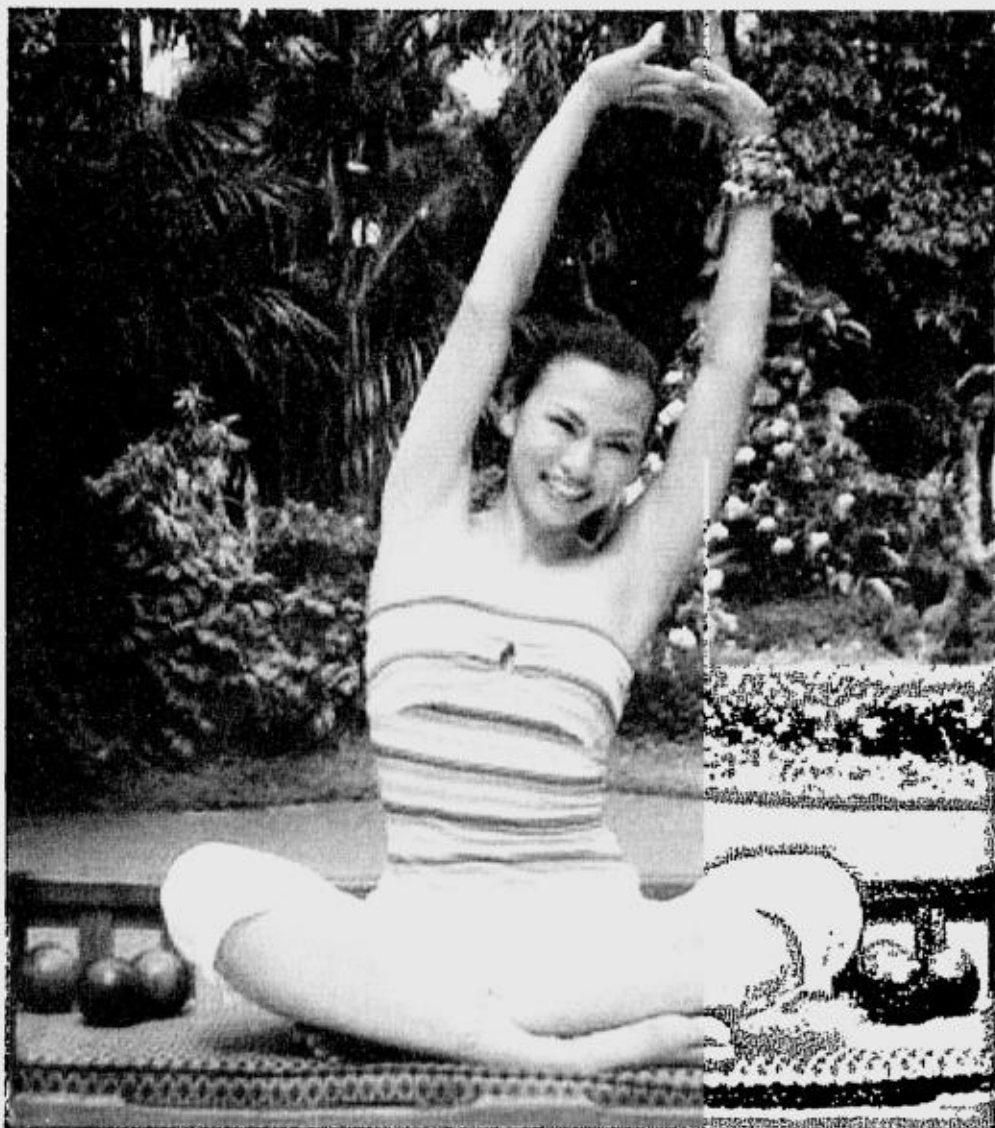
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SITTING PRETTY. Isa wears green striped peek-a-boo tube by In Focus, white capri leggings by Seventeen and rope belt (worn as a bracelet) by NafNaf

If the point of exercise
is to look good
and feel good, you'll
certainly achieve
the first in these outfits

onstage 2hr

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AND MIA CABALFIN OF C-JUST
VENUE: SOUTH FORBES PARK
SPECIAL THANKS TO TWINKLE SAMSON

A most relaxing and aromatic group gig

HOW does one define a relaxing afternoon?

Model Rissa Samson and her friends certainly had the answer to the question after they were treated by L'Occitane and Preview magazine to an afternoon at The Spa in Greenbelt.

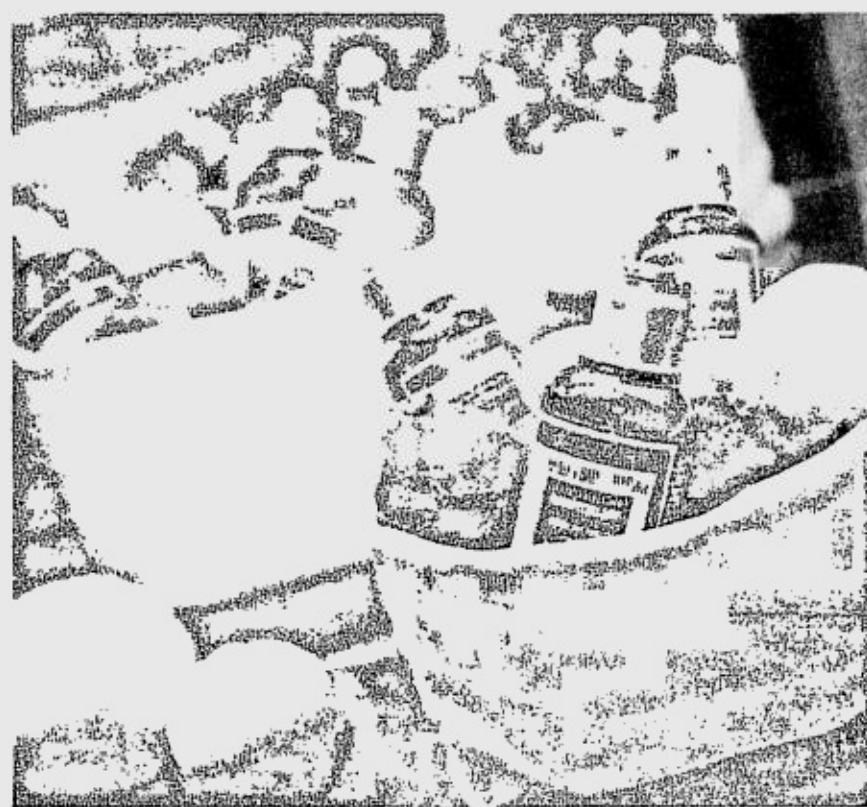
Samson, one of Preview's best dressed women, was asked to bring her friends to sample the Aromachologie Line of L'Occitane through beauty treatments at The Spa in Greenbelt. Rissa and 20 of her friends basked in the spirit of Provence, which is the inspiration behind L'Occitane products. They enjoyed various treatments, ranging from body scrubs to massages using L'Occitane's Aromachologie line.

L'Occitane's Aromachologie range features body products such as bath and massage oils, relaxing melting drops, foam baths and body scrubs, shampoos and conditioners as well as home products like candles that revitalize, purify and relax. This range of products, one of several carried by the French brand, utilizes the healing powers of essential oils found in different plants that grow in Provence.

L'Occitane is a full range body and home care brand exclusively available at Rustan's.



ESSENTIAL OILS. The healing power of mint, pine and rosemary in effervescent sugar cubes



BATH and massage oils that revitalize, purify and relax.

L'OCCITANE'S Aromachologie body products include scrub gels, shampoos and conditioners as well as home products like candles.



THE GANG'S ALL HERE. Rissa Samson, one of Preview Magazine's best dressed women, treats her friends to an afternoon at The Spa to try out L'Occitane's Aromachologie body products.

In the right racquet

BADMINTON has become a popular conditioning sport today for the health-conscious.

But, as in most sports, you have to have the right tools and equipment if you want to get the most of this activity. Different playing styles and skill levels require different equipment.

To help you get the suitable racquet, here are some guidelines.

Weight: The most important consideration in choosing a racquet is weight. For most players, especially beginners, a lighter racquet is better for swinging and hitting the shuttle. Seasoned players may opt for the stiffer medium-weight racquets. The budget-conscious can opt for the Aluminum-Graphite racquet that costs P300-P700 but those who can afford it should go for a full graphite racquet, P800-P17,000.

RSL and Carlton have the lightest racquets at about 83-85 grams. Racquet weights are: 4U (80-85g), 3U (86-90g) and 2U (91-95g).

Composition: Ordinary graphite racquets are more flexible but less durable. High-modulus graphite racquets are stiffer and offer better resiliency, hence more power. Some brands have developed advanced materials that they have incorporated into racquets to further improve performance.

Shape: There are oval and square (isometric) racquets. Square racquets usually have bigger "sweet spots," the part of the string bed with the most power. Some racquets use specially designed frames incorporating subtle advances to increase the amount of power they can generate. Others reinforce critical parts of the frame to reduce twisting that can lessen the accuracy of shots.

Grip: Grip size should not restrict wrist movement. Overgrips can easily be added to make a grip bigger

for custom fit. Some brands, like RSL and Prince, offer cushioned grips for more comfort. Towel grips to absorb sweat can be added for those who perspire a lot.

Flex: Beginners can use more flexible racquets as their swing is still on the soft side. But as one advances and starts to add more power to his/her game, stiffer racquets made of more resilient materials would be more suitable.

Length: For more "pop" in smashes, a long racquet (670 mm) instead of the standard (663 mm) is advisable. Longer racquets can give a slightly better reach and allow faster head speeds. However, longer racquets take getting used to. If you're a beginner or advance player who wants to have control, short-stemmed racquets will be perfect for pinpoint serves and drop shots.

String: The thinner the string, the more power you pack in your racquet. Look for multi-filament strings. They usually offer better resiliency than mono-filament types.

Tension: It's important to find tension suited to your playing style and racquet/string. While most racquets can take only up to 18-20 pounds maximum tension, some newer hi-modulus graphite racquets can take up to 30 pounds.

As a rule of thumb, the harder you hit, the higher you should string your racquet. For beginners, 17-21 is ideal. Advanced players will get slightly better control and power with 22-25. It is a good idea to experiment with different tensions occasionally to find what you are most comfortable with.

Toby's Sport has the widest selection of badminton gear carrying the world's best brands. It also offers professional racquet stringing services certified by the United States Racquet Stringers Association (USRSA).

Workshop on holistic massage

THE CENTER for Health and Creative Arts (Chakra) offers "Basic Introduction to Holistic Massage," a two-day workshop on the integrative approach to therapeutic massage on Oct. 13 and 14 at the Good Shepherd Convent, Aurora Blvd., QC.

Topics include basic strokes and overview of the massage style, philosophies about healing and value of the holistic approach, aromatherapy oils and their properties, and

the basic "chakra" energy system and its relevance to the holistic method.

Holistic massage is a method that is very relaxing without being physically strenuous. It has profound effects on healing emotional wounds and inspiring the spirit. It seeks to use a caring and sensitive touch, together with an energetic awareness to nurture all the aspects of a human being.

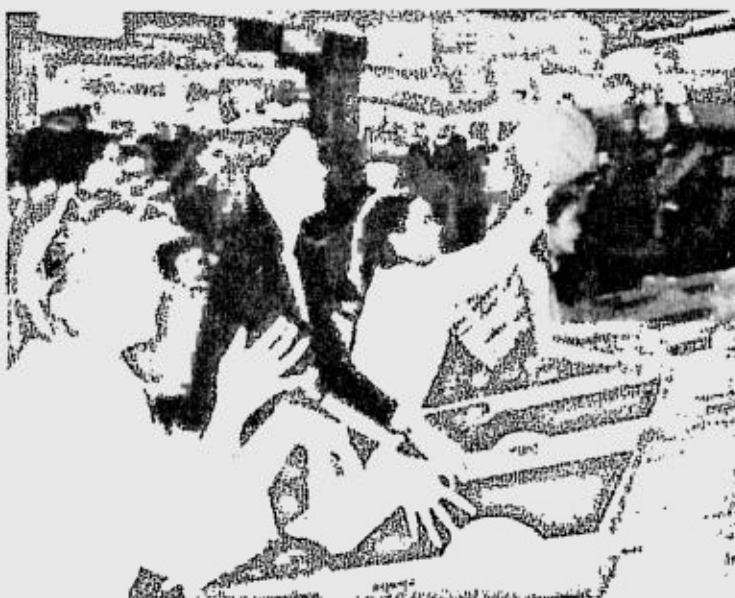
Visiting teacher, Lev Seller of the Findhorn

Spiritual Community in Scotland, has a wide range of training in bodywork including aromatherapy, remedial sports, kinesiology, Swedish and Esalen-type methods.

At the invitation of the Japanese Holistic Medicine Society, he has been conducting basic and advanced seminars on holistic techniques in Japan for the last four years.

Registration is ongoing until Oct. 10. Call 4345381/ 0919-7405791.

Slam and jam contest ongoing at amusement center



SURE SHOT? Try your skills at the Slam n' Jam machines and win prizes.

TIMEZONE has been on a nationwide search for its national representative to the 2003 International Slam n' Jam Competition scheduled on Nov. 1 at Glorietta Activity Center.

The search, ongoing until Oct. 17, requires contestants to fill up an entry form and play the Super Shot basketball machine or Slam n' Jam machines, using reloadable paper cards or one token for non-Powercard centers.

Each contestant gets four balls and for every reload, one gets a non-redemption game free of charge. Elimination rounds are held daily, with winners receiving Powercards and gift packs and weekly finalists getting all that, plus cash.

Daily and weekly finalists are posted in the Basketball Bulletin Board located in all Timezone centers nationwide.

The two top scorers in each center qualify for the "Center Finals" to be held simultaneously in all centers on Oct. 18 at 3 p.m.

Bigger cash prizes, even bigger Powercard credits and more Lipton gift packs and Teriyaki Boy gift checks await the center champs!

Winners in each Timezone center will compete against each other for the grand finals on Oct. 25 to be held at Timezone Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati.

The prizes multiply exponentially in November during the International Slam n' Jam Basketball Competition, where the best slammers n' jammers in the country plus representatives from Singapore, Indonesia and Australia will gather to show just how big basketball is in the Philippines.

Celebrities, top players compete in JVC Open

THE 10-day JVC Open Badminton Championship drew the country's best players and a large crowd of fans and spectators.

Former First Lady Amelita "Ming" Ramos made the ceremonial toss, with the electronic world's Faustino, Kazue and Dennis Salud, celebrities Gregg and Brad Turvey, and sports personality Rommy Ribaño, at Glorietta's Activity Center.

The event was organized by sporting management company, IMG.

Among the highlights of the event were the celebrity championships, which featured show biz's fastest and fittest. Sports Unlimited's Marc Nelson and Dyan Castillejo covered matches involving Cody Moreno, the Turvey twins, Raffy Rodriguez, Ricardo Cepeda, Sherwin Ordoñez, CJ Ramos, Anthony Suntay, Mandy Ochon, Patrick de la Rosa and Ricky Davao.

Other participants included Chiqui Roa, Apples Aberin-Sadhwani, Iza Calzado, Gem Padilla, Dianne Delfin, Ruby Rodriguez, Jacqui Castillejo and Angela Velez, as well as celebrity couples Hans Montenegro and Maritoni Fernandez and Tonton Gutierrez and Glydel Mercado.

Kevin Ang, Janina Paredes, Kevin Alfred Dalisay, Karyn Velez and Antonio Gadi won gold medals in all five categories of the Juniors 14 and Under category. Mark Alvin Natividad, Raquel and Rachel Guerrero, Michael Paclibar, Wilmer

Frias and Paula Lynn Obanan won in the Higher Juniors category.

Ian Pienzenaves and Arolas Amahit of the Philippine Army, with Weena Lim and siblings Kennie and Kennevic Asuncion won in the Elite Category. Salavado Banquilles and Renato Reyes of the Philippine National Police joined Jeanette Banquilles, Guinever Chan and Naresh Ramnani in the winners circle of the Seniors Category. Bongo Bonanza's team was named Corporate Champions.

The JVC Open Badminton Championship was sponsored by Alaska, Pioneer Life, Accel, Gosen, Rudy Project, Ayala Center, i-Ayala, Gentext, Philippine Star, 103.5 K-Lite and Tokyo Tokyo.

Not a damaged culture but a damaged soul

“WILL our country ever have any chance of getting out of the political, social, cultural, intellectual and spiritual rut it is in?”

This is what more and more of our countrymen are asking themselves. And no one, it seems, has yet come up with a viable and credible answer.

I have talked to a number of foreigners, and these foreigners love the Philippines and the Filipino people. In fact, many of them even married local women. And they look at us with complete bewilderment and puzzlement.

“We cannot understand you Filipinos,” they tell me. “You have probably the most abundant natural resources any country could dream of. You have a highly vibrant, intelligent and creative people, and you have a comfortable climate all throughout the year. But you and your leaders can’t seem to put your act together.”

“Almost every leader of your country seems to be only after his own welfare. This is very obvious by reading any of your dailies. And your people allow this to happen. Every election time, you put into power people who do not have the national interest at heart, but people whose ambition is only to amass personal wealth.”

“You applaud leaders who are merely popular rather than capable, merely verbose and bombastic rather than truly intelligent; the shrewd and merely clever rather than the wise, the dishonest and corrupt rather than the ones with integrity and mental honesty.”

“When will you Filipinos ever learn? When will you ever wake up?” they ask me. And I simply can not provide any answer, intelligent or otherwise.

Colonizers robbed us of our soul

I don’t know why we are the way we are. Some social thinkers say ours is a “damaged culture” because of what our colonizers have done to us.

But one astute Italian businessman and restaurateur I met thought otherwise. “You do not have a damaged culture,” he said, “you have a damaged soul! You must restore the purity, the genius and the beauty of the Filipino soul, which is truly yours.”

He said the country’s colonizers—the Spaniards, the Americans and the Japanese—have destroyed the Filipino’s soul. And we have not fully recovered from the onslaught.

I collapsed in my chair in his small but cozy restaurant in Makati. I couldn’t say anything. It was as if he put a mirror to my face and made me look at the dirt on my face which I had long ignored.

A “damaged soul.” That seems to be a good catchword for what ails our people. We cannot rise up to face and solve our problems because we have lost our soul.

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licaucó



We have sold it—not to the devil, but to something worse—to the church, the politicians, the entertainers, the drug lords, the criminals, the board of censors, to almost anybody else outside of our own selves.

Giving up our soul meant giving up our identity.

And what of our leaders? What can we expect from them? You want the truth? Not much! That’s why, sometimes, some idealistic youth resort to mutiny or rebellion, because they see no other way to catch the attention of those that hold the reins of government.

Have you not noticed that rather than addressing the grievances that brought about

the July 27 coup or mutiny (whatever you want to call it), government investigators instead questioned the soldiers’ grammar, their properties and their perceived arrogance?

No one ever asked themselves, “What do we do now with the issues these young officers have raised against the government?”

No, that was not important. What was more important was, “What do we do with your grammar, gentlemen?”

Plato’s ideal political leader

And as for the rest of us, how do we choose our leaders come election time (if there will be one next year)? What kind of leaders should we put in government?

There are no easy answers. But advice on this had been offered by one of the greatest philosophers and political thinkers of all time, Plato, who lived around 380 BC in Greece.

In his great work, “The Republic,” Plato enumerated the ideal qualities of a head of state, if a country is to be rid of its evils and ensure the happiness and welfare of the peo-

ple. He said: “Until philosophers are kings, or the kings and princes of this world have the spirit and power of philosophy, and political greatness and wisdom meet in one, and those commoner natures who pursue either to the exclusion of the other are compelled to stand aside, cities will never have rest from their evils—no, nor the human race, as I believe—and then only will this our state have a possibility of life and behold the light of day.”

From what I can see in our immediate political horizon, such a leader that Plato spoke of has yet to appear.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza 1, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City. Call 8107245 or 8926806. E-mail jlicaucó@edsamail.com.ph. Visit <http://jlicaucó.tripod.com>. Listen to his dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Because of a lingering computer virus, we had to delete again incoming e-mails last week. So please understand if we do not respond to recent e-mails.

We cannot rise to face our problems because we have lost our soul and given up our identity



Promo Period: July 1 - October 18, 2003

NATIONWIDE ALERT:

BABAGYO NG P12 MILLION SA OCTOBER 18!

Pagkatapos magpaalan ng 120 na P25,000 sa first draw at 11 na P500,000 sa second draw, 12 na P1 million naman ang ipamimigay ng MAG-NESTLE ALMUSAL, GISING MILYONARYO 2 raffle promo. Huwag magpahuli sa grasya! Mula ngayon hanggang October 4, bumangon nang maaga, MAG-NESTLE ALMUSAL, magpadala ng maraming entries, at abangan ang Grand Draw sa October 18. Tandaan, deadline na ng entries sa October 4!

HOW TO JOIN:

1. Write your name, address, signature, and the promo title, “MAG-NESTLE ALMUSAL, GISING MILYONARYO 2,” on a genuine label, foil, and boxtop of participating Nestlé products. Entries should be clean and at least 3/4 of its original size. Entries which do not conform to the requirements and mechanics of the promo shall be automatically disqualified.
2. Drop entries in designated drop boxes found in supermarkets and groceries nationwide. In order to qualify, entries must be dropped in the draw area where the residence of the participant is located as written in the entries. All entries that are dropped in draw areas outside of a participant’s residence as indicated in the entries shall be automatically disqualified.
3. Entries received after cut-off date and non-winning entries will

qualify for the succeeding draws, including the grand draw.

4. A consumer may win only once in every draw.

5. Winners will be officially notified via mail, with instructions on how to claim their prizes. Winners will only be considered as official once they receive their

notification letters. Prizes not claimed within 60 days after receipt of letter will be forfeited upon approval of BFAD.

6. The organizer’s decision, in concurrence with the BFAD, is FINAL.

7. Schedule of draws, areas, deadline of entries, & prizes are as follows:

Draw Dates	Deadline of Entries	Area	No. of Winners	Prize (Tax-free)
1st Preliminary Draw				
Aug. 8	Aug. 1	GMA	40	P 25,000 each
		North Luzon	10	
		Central Luzon	10	
		South Luzon 1	10	
		South Luzon 2	10	
		East Visayas	10	
		West Visayas	10	
		North Mindanao	10	
		South Mindanao	10	
2nd Preliminary Draw				
Sept. 1	Aug. 27	West Visayas	1	P 500,000 each
Sept. 7	Aug. 31	East Visayas	1	
Sept. 10	Sept. 3	South Mindanao	1	
Sept. 13	Sept. 6	North Mindanao	1	
Sept. 18	Sept. 11	North Luzon	1	
Sept. 18	Sept. 11	Central Luzon	1	
Sept. 18	Sept. 11	South Luzon 1	1	
Sept. 18	Sept. 11	South Luzon 2	1	
Sept. 21	Sept. 14	GMA	3	
Grand Draw				
October 18	October 4	GMA	4	P 1,000,000 each
		North Luzon	1	
		Central Luzon	1	
		South Luzon 1	1	
		South Luzon 2	1	
		East Visayas	1	
		West Visayas	1	
		North Mindanao	1	
		South Mindanao	1	

8. Employees of Nestlé Philippines, Inc., its advertising and promotional agencies, packaging suppliers, service contractors, distributors, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are automatically disqualified to join the promotion.

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 NESLAC • NESTLÉ CALCIUM PLUS
 NESCAFÉ (Classic, 3-in-1, Frothé, Gold, Decaf) • COFFEE-MATE • MAGGI (all products) • NESTLÉ BREAKFAST CEREALS (Koko Crunch, Cornflakes, Trix, Nestlé Fitness, Honey Stars, MILO, Banana Nut Clusters, Honey Gold, Almond Clusters)
 NESTLÉ FRUIT SELECTION YOGURT
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“MAG-NESTLE ALMUSAL NA! BAKA ISA KA NA SA MGA MAGISING MILYONARYO!”



HBC's Body Recipe line for skin care.

Maintaining healthy skin

A GOOD skin care regimen begins with proper cleansing. So, where can one find an effective facial service that fits the budget and at the same time provides you with products to maintain a healthy and beautiful skin?

HBC Home of Beauty Exclusives offers a solution for a minimum purchase of HBC's Body Recipe line for skin care. This relaxing facial experience is available at selected HBC stores.

HBC's well-trained Exclusive Service Specialists will make sure that you get the best facial service you can get for a fraction of the cost most beauty establishments offer.

HBC's Body Recipe is a complete line of natural skin care products which are inspired by natural, homegrown beauty recipes.

HBC Home of Beauty Exclusives introduces two of its skin care products that help your skin achieve that clean and healthy feel and at the same time, whiten and smoothen dry and rough skin. Body Recipe Milk Plus Body Bar and Body Lotion let you enjoy the healthy goodness of milk on your skin.

They're made with goat's milk—proven to maintain your skin's moisture balance resulting in smoother and softer skin that is less prone to roughness, lines and wrinkles. Milk Plus Body Bar is easy to rinse off and leaves a soft and supple feeling on your skin. Body Plus Body Lotion contains UVA and UVB protection to maintain your skin's natural whiteness.

Both Body Bar and Body Lotion whiten your skin with continued use. Body Recipe Milk Plus Body Bar and Lotion are available at HBC Home of Beauty Exclusives.



Strategies to prevent badminton injuries

Part I

IN LAST week's column, I wrote that badminton is not a dangerous sport. But badminton injuries are on the rise because there are more people playing now compared to a few years ago, and the majority of people getting into badminton are those who have not exercised in a while.

Also, many people want to play badminton to lose weight. Unfortunately, being overweight escalates the risk of getting injured since the extra weight increases the load on unfit muscles, joints, tendons and ligaments.

Here is an overview of general strategies to avoid getting sidelined with a badminton injury. Next week, I'll do a joint-by-joint injury prevention analysis.

According to sports medicine research, most badminton injuries are due to overuse, incorrect playing form, poor strength and flexibility, inadequate or absent warm-ups, and the wrong equipment.

Avoid overuse injuries

A study on elite Swedish badminton players by Martin Fahlstrom and Ronny Lorentzon that was published in the American Journal of Sports Medicine said there are three common errors that lead to overuse injuries. For novice players, it's a case of "too much, too soon." For more experienced players, the scenario is one of "too much all the time." Finally, for all players, it's continuing to train and play in spite of feeling symptoms already.

Learn proper form

Here are some words of wisdom from Edgar Eufemio, sports medicine doctor and head of the Philippine General Hospital Sports Clinic, on why a good badminton trainer can save you a lot of grief.

"The objective of the game is not to actually send the shuttlecock back lightly so your playmate has an easy time retrieving it. When you play, you have two things in mind—to get in shape and to win! It's no fun congratulating your opponents time and again and always having to pay for lunch, dinner or the court because it's 'losers' pay." So you hit harder than you're used to. You run and jump harder. You play harder. And if you never learned the proper basics, your body breaks down. Your form is wrong, your footwork is wrong and your willingness to practice more often using the improper form and footwork compounds the problem. Worst of all, you still lose."

Eufemio is not convinced that friends make good teachers (and he observes that relatives are probably the worst) because "a good player does not always translate into a good trainer." So he recommends

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan



that you ask around and do background checks to find the professional trainer you need to teach you correct form.

Get fit and stay fit

In an ideal world, an out-of-shape person wanting to make badminton his or her main form of exercise should undergo at least six weeks of a basic conditioning program composed of aerobic exercise (walking and jogging are good examples), strength training (with free weights, machines or rubber bands) and stretching exercises.

At the end of the six weeks, he or she can start taking badminton lessons to learn proper playing form. The fitness program should not be stopped but should continue to be the foundation or backdrop against which the game is played.

Eventually, the playing sessions can replace the aerobic exercise component of the fitness program, but the strength and flexibility exercises should continue. As the player becomes fitter, anaerobic SAQ or speed, agility and quickness drills can be added to enhance performance.

As good as strength training is for your game, Dr. James Bragman, sports medicine doctor for the CNN Radio Network, has a word of caution about lifting weights and racket sports.

"Don't lift weights and then go out and play," he says. "You temporarily lose some fine motor control when you lift weights, and you also tire out muscles. Lift on the days you don't play, or lift after you have played."

In terms of injury prevention, it's true that "you don't play a sport to get fit; you get fit to play a sport." Now, this doesn't mean that a sport will not improve your fitness level. It will, but you can only do it safely if you are already somewhat fit.

Here's what badminton can do for you, according to Don Paup, director of the exercise program at George Washington University and committee chair for sports medicine and science for the USA Badminton team. Paup evaluated badminton based on the components of fitness using a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the best.

Muscle strength: 6. You gain strength in the legs, but not as much in the arms.

Muscle endurance: 8. Muscles are constantly moving for 30-60 minutes, more in competitive tournaments.

Cardiovascular conditioning: 9. Badminton involves a lot of running and sprinting, constantly engaging the heart and lungs.

Speed, agility, quickness: 10. The shuttlecock is hit every .8 to .9 seconds, so you have to be fast.

Hand-eye coordination: 10. Anticipating and hitting the shuttlecock with the racket involves quick coordination.

Flexibility: 7. You're not as flexible as a gymnast because you need some tightening of the muscles to move quickly, but you do a lot of bending and reaching.

Body composition: 8. You lose fat and gain some lean muscle mass.

Warm-up

Taking the time to warm up is a simple way to prevent injuries and to improve performance. The word "warm-up" means exactly that, because body temperature needs to be raised by approximately two degrees Fahrenheit from the start of the warm-up to the beginning of the game proper, according to Paula Anderson in her article, "The Active Range Warm-Up" for Idea Fitness Magazine.

"The increased body temperature makes the muscles more pliable, releases joint fluid, allows for a gradual rise in blood pressure and heart rate, and quickens nerve transmissions."

Warm-ups can be general or specific. A general warm-up will use movements that are not related to the sport but will make the body warmer. Riding a stationary bike, doing knee lifts and arm circles and such are examples.

A specific warm-up will use low-intensity movements that mimic the sport. Lower extremity examples for badminton would include jogging forwards and backwards, shuffling from side-to-side, squatting and lunging.

Eufemio gives an example for the upper extremities: "Players will start a few feet behind the net, between the net and the service line, and hit lightly to each other for around one to two minutes. Then they move to the service line and hit for another one to two minutes. This goes on until they reach baseline." There are many other examples that you can get by going to badminton websites.

A general warm-up is better than none, but a specific warm-up is the best because it is more functional and is a more accurate rehearsal for the game to come.

Static stretching, or holding a stretch motionless for 10 to 20 seconds, has fallen out of favor as a warm-up component since current research has found that it does not prevent injuries, does not help raise body temperature, and is not functional physiologically or psychologically



ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

as a rehearsal activity.

In 2000, Ian Shrier of McGill University in Canada reviewed all the clinical and basic science evidence on stretching. His conclusion: "Pre-exercise stretching to prevent injury is now part of the sport culture and will likely continue to be for a long time, despite scientific evidence to the contrary. This is unfortunate because many people have limited time for exercise, and the time used for pre-exercise stretching could be better used for warm-up or regular exercise."

In a study done on marathon runners, researchers found that the runners who stretched statically during the warm-up actually had higher injury rates than the runners who didn't stretch. A logical reason for this is that the stretching group wasted their time doing static stretches rather than concentrating on movements that would gradually raise body temperature. Thus, their bodies were not warm enough when the race began.

Based on current research, the "right" way to warm up is to do low-intensity full body movement similar to your desired exercise or sport format for about 10-15 minutes. This satisfies the two requirements for an appropriate warm-up—increasing body temperature gradually and specifically "rehearsing" the body for the more vigorous movement coming.

Please note that it is only the benefit of static stretching during the warm-up that is being questioned. Based on available scientific evidence, static stretching after exercise is still considered a valid means of improving or maintaining flexibility to prevent injury. It is simply a question of timing.

Get a checkup before playing. It's a good idea to get a checkup before seriously getting into a sport like badminton.

A leisurely backyard game played on a Sunday afternoon by four relatively unfit players is not usually a problem. But playing three to six times a week with competitive opponents increases the risk of injury.

And if you think that only professional players are competitive, think again. Some of the most competitive players in any sport are those in office inter-department or subdivision tournaments when egos get the better of good judgment. Just like association or country club elections can be as dirty and intense as national elections, these small-time tournaments can be just as passionate as professional big-name events.

If you are over 40, go see a cardiologist and sports medicine doctor. Younger players can still benefit greatly from a visit to a sports medicine or orthopedic doctor. The doctor can tell you if you have a muscle imbalance between your quadriceps (front of the thigh) and hamstring (back of the thigh) that could predispose you to a knee injury. He can tell you if one leg is shorter than the other, which could lead to a back injury.

The time and money spent consulting with a sports medicine doctor will be far less than the time and money you will have to spend for physical therapy or surgery if you get injured.

I have a client in his early 30s who has lax knee joints. If he isn't careful when he straightens his legs, his knees curve backwards. If he had checked with a sports medicine doctor before getting into badminton, he wouldn't have needed knee surgery.

Even if he had been strength training, the doctor would have probably told him to choose another sport because of his anatomical shortcoming.

E-mail the author at fitness@ibm.net

Take Charge Doc! MEDICard

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

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Meet your MEDICard Team



After finishing Medicine at UERM, accredited specialist Dr. Rommel D. Bautista chose to take specialization training in the field of Ophthalmology at Medical City General Hospital (MCGH). Thereafter, he chose to take subspecialization training for the disease glaucoma at Stanford University Medical Center in California, USA. Dr. Bautista, who has co-authored several internationally published textbooks in glaucoma, is now affiliated with the Philippine Glaucoma Society, Philippine Board of Ophthalmology and the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Members may visit him for consultations at the Medical Plaza Bldg. of MCGH, Room 1803 every Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9 AM to 12 noon and then from 1 to 4 PM. He also holds clinic on Saturdays, from 9 AM to 12 noon

Contract Signing



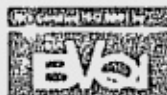
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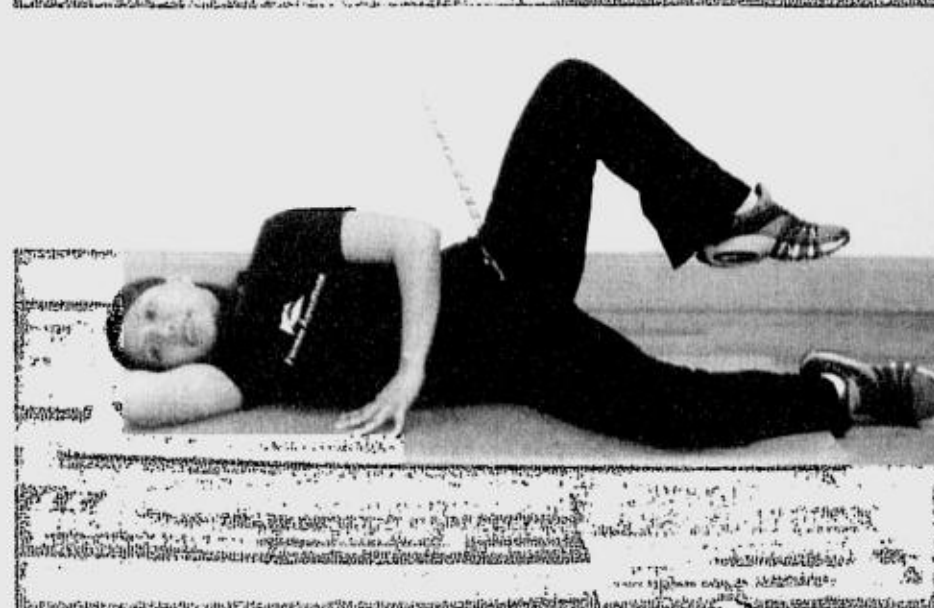
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EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Side-lying hip rotation



THIS exercise comes from the New York City Ballet workout. It tones the muscles of the buttocks and hips. It is called "hip rotation" because you rotate the leg outward at the hip joint.

Equipment:
Exercise mat
Exercise technique:

1. Lie on your side with both knees bent in front of you at an angle.
2. Raise the top leg until it is in line with your hips and parallel to the floor.
3. Contract your buttocks and rotate the leg outward from the hip joint until the knee is facing the ceiling.

4. Return to starting position.
5. Do the desired number of repetitions, then switch to the other side.

Performance tips:

1. Don't focus on moving your knee outward. Instead, focus on contracting your buttocks to rotate from the hip joint.
2. Exhale as you rotate; inhale as you return.
3. If it hurts your hip joint, modify by not rotating outward as much. If it still bothers your hip, avoid this exercise.

Repetitions:
Do 10 repetitions per leg.

LIFESTYLE



Your evolution and higher nutrition

"You create your reality with your intentions." —Dr. Gary Zukav—"The Seat Of The Soul"

WHY do we need to evolve?

In mundane terms, evolution is the ability of an organism to ensure its survival. And yet, this definition is inadequate.

INSIDE OUT



Cory Quirino

called reverence—a practice of non-violence toward life and all creatures.

The splintered self. Evolved persons refrain from being splintered (adopting two opposing intentions, which is the classic case of "not knowing what you want") and focus instead on having intentions that reflect a higher self—honesty, love and courage, as against the lower self—dishonesty, hatred and cowardice.

Why we need to evolve is simple. To be well, one needs to grow in the spirit. For how can you set a goal for yourself if your mind and heart are not committed?

For example, if it is your intention to be fit, you will open new doors to new experiences. But if your intention is to be fit but you prefer to be lazy, then you have conflicting intentions, and the stronger intention will win out in the end.

Splintered personalities are restless and irritable, as they are torn between two dynamics and experience great inner struggle. And if a person will not acknowledge that aspects of the self are in conflict, the result will be severe stress and emotional pain. In some cases, this can even lead to schizophrenia and physical illness.

When you begin to feel uncomfortable in what you are doing, becoming less and less content with your present reality, that can only mean your higher self has begun the search for more meaning in life.

Intention leads to choice. The center of your personal evolution is choice. And each choice you make constitutes the heart of your intention.

Many painful patterns in your life may reappear again and again because of opposing intentions that lead to opposing choices. Here is a tip: If you truly want your life to move in one direction but find that it is going the opposite way, take a long, hard look at yourself.

Karma. All choices make waves. If you speak or behave in anger, you create the karma of anger. If you speak or act with compassion, then a totally different path opens up for you—the path of compassion.

Many aspects within you compete

When you begin feeling uncomfortable in what you're doing, that only means your higher self has begun the search for more meaning in life

for satisfaction. While you may not be able to satisfy all your aspects, you can become conscious of your choices and the results of your choices.

Every decision you make is a choice—of which parts of yourself to keep and which ones to release. Some key questions to ask yourself are: What will this produce in my

YOUR/D4



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Armani, Hugo Boss, Gucci, YSL, Ferragamo (Belts)	P2,995	P499.99
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TARJA Krueger, Mayor Benhur Abalos, Shangri-La Hotel chair Tom Zita and general manager Wolfgang Krueger



PR manager Ria Romero



EXPEDITIONS Magazine ed in chief H.B. Gapud, Heidi Ng and Makati Shangri-La general manager Jarlath Lynch



BOB and Monette Guevarra

Monument to water rises in urban oasis

"THE REFRESHING sound of raindrops and free-flowing streams, the tranquil touch of rhythmic waves and lapping tides... the faintest whispers of morning dews and sea mists." Sounds like a poem by Elizabeth Barrett Browning? In keeping with its image as the great urban escape environment in a concrete jungle, Greenbelt 3 enhances its lush greenscape with a monument that celebrates water!

Life's sustaining element is at its most relaxing, refreshing and rejuvenating form. By unveiling the sparkling new 8-foot high Greenbelt 3 fountain at the center's second floor during a new moon, it was all too clear that water has sprung in Manila's own urban oasis.

"Water in any environment is a welcome element," explains Reggie Yuson, the rising sculptor commissioned to create the Greenbelt scene's latest point of interest. "The sound alone helps us attain that sense of peace, the level of inner equilibrium," according to the University of the Philippines Fine Arts undergraduate when asked about his vision of immaculate form powered by pure function that never ceases and reflective of his youthful diversity.

By fashioning a stainless steel ring 10 feet in diameter on a crushed-tile mosaic base set in the coolest blues, the fountain becomes a contemporary industrialist masterpiece with the exceptional interplay of colored lights that turn the iridescent aqua curtain into a luminous rainbow at night.

Artist and art patrons alike were the first to witness the event in an intimate cocktail affair attended by Ayala Land mega hotshots like chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala, president Francisco Licuanan III, Miriam Katigbak, Winnie Nazareth and Rowena Tomeldan. The gathering is yet another feather in the cap of Don Jaime Zobel de Ayala for his commendable vision in bringing art closer to the people, most especially budding artists and art aficionados.

Greenbelt 3's newest fountain stands as a firm testament to the refreshing harmony of nature and urban progress.

Fine Japanese dining

The swinging Edsa Shangri-La launched another baby—an authentic Japanese fine dining restaurant simply called Nishiki. Welcoming the very important personas was the hotel's general manager, well-respected gentleman Wolfgang Krueger, no less, together with popular Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos and Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts Philippines chair, Tom Zita. Among the hotshots who were there were Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts International vice president for marketing, the dynamic Peggy Angeles, NBC's Francis Lumen and glamorous congresswoman, the cyber smart Imee Marcos.

Nishiki's mega master chefs delighted us with traditional favorites and new specialties such as Ebi Teppan, plus other yummys, downed with an endless flow of Japanese sake.

Nishiki means "beautiful patterns, balance of beauty and glory" and "return in glory." Bril-

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max



liantly designed by Warner Wong Design & Architecture of Singapore, no less, Nishiki's overall concept is inspired by the Japanese performing art form called Noh, with backdrops that allow sensual moods to unfold. The restaurant is a stage set for the ritual of authentic fine dining. The reception has a rock garden made of asymmetrical rocks specially flown in from Japan.

"A gallery space stretching across the restaurant connects the sushi bar, teppanyaki tables and VIP rooms, where you can enjoy ultimate privacy," superbly explained to us by the hotel's angel, Edsa Shangri-La PR manager Angel Javier.

As we moved around, I couldn't help but notice the eye-catching uniforms worn by the resto's staff, excellently designed by Rajo Laurel. A contemporary take on the traditional boring, plain white kimonos, the uniform is made of a silky burgundy fabric, accented with copper obi, gold piping and asymmetrical sleeves.

Nishiki, located at the Mezzanine of Edsa Shangri-La, Manila, can accommodate up to 130 persons and is open from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 10 p.m. daily. Check it out, you'll definitely not regret it. Promise.

Golden anniversary

For months, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Andres Narvasa and his nice wife Jany Yuseco, planned to go on a cruise on the MV Star and visit various well-known places in China to celebrate their golden anniversary. At the last minute, the golden couple decided to bring along their six children, 15 grandchildren and even their children's help, would you believe?

Unfortunately, the SARS outbreak occurred and so, from a fabi cruise, the Narvasas opted to celebrate their anniversary at the Garden Ballroom of Shangri-La Edsa. Close pal and spiritual director of the former Chief Justice, Fr. Raymond Nolscher, S.J., celebrated the Mass and gave a gratifying homily, congratulating the couple for their fruitful 50 years. The renewal of the sacrament of Matrimony followed. The golden pair had a lavish dinner reception also at the Grand Ballroom with 400 heavy-weight guests headed by mega taipan Lucio Tan and his vivacious wife Carmen, former Philippine National Bank president Panfilo Domingo; Narvasa's distinguished fellow justices from the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Regional Trial Court; and former colleagues at the PNB, which he once chaired.

After the dinner, a fun program was presented by the Narvasa children and grandchildren, highlighting great moments in the 50-year marriage, even tracing *famille* trees of both sides.

We found out some hidden facts about the couple, like: Andre thinks more, Jany feels more. He hates shopping, Jany loves it. He can

dance but does not want to, Jany loves to (her frustration). He sings very well, Jany cannot carry a tune. He has no money sense—he doesn't even know what money looks like. When Jany has it, he likes to wallow in it.

Andre can stay in the house for days on end, as long as no one disturbs him while he is glued to his computer or TV. Jany has to get out of the house after three days or she gets crazy.

Andre is very poor in remembering names, faces and places; Jany is his information bureau.

They both love food but his day is not complete unless he says something about the food in the house—"matabang, maalat, matigas, malambot, matamis, maasin, malansa."

"Deadma na lang ako," says Jany.

They both love to read. But again their reading materials are different. On his night table are the Bible, catechism books, National Geographic, Popular Mechanics, mythology. On her side, Jany has the daily prayers, novena booklets, romantic or mystery novels, fashion magazines and popular magazines on actors and actresses, "puro tsismis."

The grand finale left all the invitees completely in awe when Viana Narvasa, the eldest grandchild, made her grand entrance in the ballroom wearing the same, perfectly preserved, wedding gown of lace and nacre pearls worn by her grandmother 50 years ago.

The affair turned into a long night of dancing-till-you-drop except for those who were out of shape, as many were, with two bands playing alternately old and contemporary music.

The happy invitees went home with bunches of American Beauty red roses tied with golden ribbons and Swiss chocolates, for their sweet dreams.

What is the success secret of the Narvasas' marriage? Jany answered, "I believe it is the magic of this thing called love and because the dearest things I know are what he is."

Acoustic Pinoy music

Take note. Another hot night is in store for all you music lovers, on Oct. 1 at the one-of-a-kind Dish. "Wired 2: Pure Pinoy" will give us a night of acoustic OPM featuring hot names like Paolo Santos of Hourglass, Nyoy Volante of Mannos and True Faith. The concept is original and the tribute covers both English and Tagalog songs, but all written by Filipinos. Entrance is P300.

To make reservations, call 8981771 or 8981824. It should be a cool night, *palanggas*.



NISHIKI sushi chefs in their eye-catching kimonos show off the tuna they served that evening.



THE NEWEST fountain at the second level of Greenbelt 3—a testament of the refreshing harmony of nature and urban progress



BRILLIANT young sculptor Reggie Yuson with Cristy Comia



PR wonderwoman Susan Joven and Marinela Fabella



TOP landscaper Paolo Alcazaren, Gerardo Tan and Manuel Ocampo



FRANCISCO M. Licuanan III, Miriam Katigbak, Winnie Nazareth, Fernando Zobel de Ayala and Rowena Tomeldan



THE ENTIRE Narvasa famille



NENA del Rosario with her granddaughters Muffin and Denise Galvez



GOV. Raul Daza and Justice Vicente Mendoza



THE GOLDEN couple: former Supreme Court Chief Justice Andres Narvasa and wife Jany Yuseco

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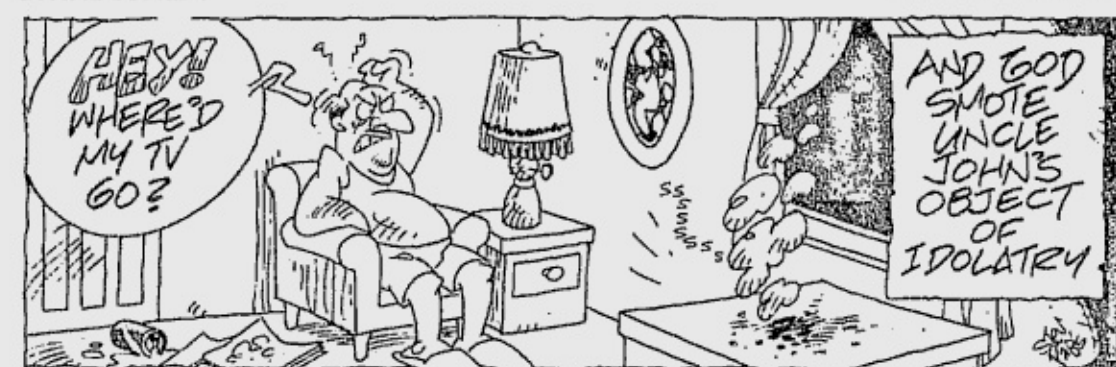
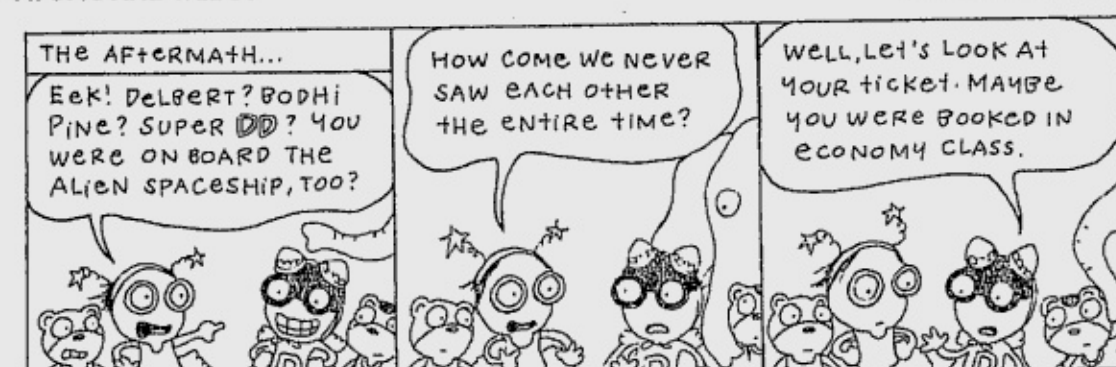


ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

YOU BORN TODAY: You are extremely sensitive and caring. You often have a particular artistic proficiency. You feel intensely about things. It's important that you believe in yourself. You like to have a loving relationship. The year ahead is brimming with possibilities and opportunities for travel and discovery. Don't be afraid to love. Birthdate of: Natasha Wagner, actress; Jerry Lee Lewis, musician; Anita Ekberg, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel unusually sympathetic and idealistic about situations in other countries. You have a strong appreciation for different cultures today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Someone might introduce you to a person who needs your help. If this happens, you will be inclined to lend some assistance if you can.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You might come up with some good, creative ideas today. If possible, at least give yourself an opportunity to appreciate the creative talent of others.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're wondering just how much money or practical assistance is available for you to live in the style to which you would like to become accustomed. Wishes sometimes come true.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Co-workers come to you with their problems today. Because you have a nurturing instinct, this is not surprising. You like to help people if you are able to.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You might want to do something that makes where you live feel more luxurious. Anything that you do—even reducing clutter—could enhance the appearance of your home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might feel attracted to somebody today—a tiny crush. That's OK. It feels good to be attracted to the object of your affection. (It means you're alive.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're more willing to spend on quality than most, especially when it comes to food and drink. If you have the urge to do so today—go right ahead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Sympathetic conversations take place today. You might need to pour your troubles out to a friend. Alternatively, others might come to you with their sad tales. Either way, a mutual sympathy is easily reached.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your sixth sense or ESP is definitely working today. Trust your hunches. It's important to respect these feelings when they come to you, no matter how illogical they might seem.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): A confidential conversation with a female friend is likely today. You will either unload something you have to talk about, or you will offer a sympathetic ear.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Someone important might ask you for your opinion today. Don't be afraid to give it. This is one way you can be both helpful and promote yourself at the same time.



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DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- City in Transylvania
- Took flight
- Key of Beethoven's "Eroica"
- Top-drawer
- Humdinger
- Sierra
- Offend slightly
- Cantor and Lupino
- Cheap jewelry
- Front attachment: abbr.
- Four-time Winston Cup runner-up
- Marsh plants
- Nautical assents
- Gemsbok
- Tenets
- Legend car maker
- Garden tool
- Enthusiastic opinion
- Ayn and Sally
- Best pitcher
- Stratum
- Choir member
- Eight bits
- Chicago airport
- Singer Pichie
- Final Four org.
- "Star Wars" princess
- Expose
- Three-time Indy-500 winner
- Ship part
- Inventor Howe
- Twitches
- Thought
- Murphy of movies
- Uncertainty
- In of
- Golfers
- Burden
- Oodles

DOWN

- Bivouacs
- Roanne's river
- Leth hungry
- Four-time Winston Cup champion
- Insubstantial
- Chinese port on Korea Bay
- Satellite of Jupiter
- Shadowy
- Hall of UTEP
- Cold feet
- Missing
- Against
- Young adult
- Persian's contemporary
- Notable periods
- Medical shot?
- Five-time Monaco Grand Prix champion
- Writer Asselou
- Assert confidently
- Very dry
- Asian sea
- Colombian metropolis
- Biblical preposition
- Do something
- Acute
- Cash advance
- Cordon
- French palace
- Swearwords
- Emcee's lead-in
- Thai or Korean
- Sound
- Winty precipitation
- Mamm or Kinski
- Horn sound
- Yo Shoppo
- Wait
- Switch partner?
- Light tan

By Eugene R. Pulfenberger
Houston, TX
9/30/03

Monday's Puzzle Solved

P	E	S	I	A	T	A	I	E	B	B	S
U	C	L	A	L	O	O	S	E	N	O	U
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Your evolution...

From page D1

life? Do I really want to create this consequence? Am I prepared to accept responsibility for my choices?

Projection exercise. Want a sample of your intentions and choices? Fast forward yourself into the future. Sit comfortably. Practice breathing slowly. Close your eyes.

You can project yourself into the probable future by imagining your choice as a reality. Pick a choice. Create the movie in your mind. Now open your eyes. Ask yourself if you are happy with your choice. It is clear you can create your own karma by being conscious of the choices you make, whether positive or negative.

Positive vs soul. Simply put, the personality is interested in itself. It seeks thrills and satisfaction, it is grounded in external power, its reality is satisfaction and ego. It lives in the realm of the senses and gives power to them.

But as one grows in deeper awareness of the spiritual self, the gap between the personality and the soul closes. The soul seeks healing and peace—internal power. When this happens, authentic power is born.

Higher nutrition. When a person is ill, there is a need for healing. Illness, according to medical practitioners, isn't just a result of the breakdown of the physical self. For exam-

ple, for physical and emotional healing to take place, high-vibration foods are needed. These include those which are raw, alive, fresh, and preferably, organic. Thus, start including more vegetables, fruits and fiber in your diet.

Also, "a dramatic shift in nutrition is often required wherein a person must release every one of his or her negative eating habits," says Dr. Gary Zukav.

In the language of evolution, the intention to be well is not good enough. You must want it and consciously make a choice for it. And by the same token, your intention to be happy must lead to a conscious desire and will to change your life for the better.

Soulful break. Steep tea bags of chamomile and peppermint tea in a pot of hot water. Mix ½ tsp of honey. Sip slowly. Relax. This hits the soul spot instantly.

Love and light!

The First Beauty and Wellness Fair (Jan. 17-18, 2004 at Megatrade Hall) is inviting interested exhibitors and sponsors. Home Economics students, universities and schools are also invited to participate in the Healthy Heart Cooking Competition. Call Bob Zozobrado at 5225268/5225274 or Arlene Florentino at 8132617/8132612.

Guide to a more fulfilling life

Special 8th Anniversary Issue!

Healthy Options

Exercise
I will save your life!
Living To 100
Secrets of Long Life
Breast Cancer
Under Gender Therapy
Quit Smoking
Three Sexy Reasons

a longer
richer
more fulfilling

HEALTHY Options celebrates its eighth anniversary in October with a special issue of Healthy Options News Digest.

The magazine features "Living to 100: Secrets of Long Life" alongside its cover story on "How Can You Save Your Life?" Did you know that a large part of longevity is dependent upon genetics? But, cautions Bradley Wilcox of the Okinawa Centenarian Study, inheriting a solid set of genes doesn't make you bulletproof. Here are a few tips to put plenty of miles on the odometer.

Explore the "Women's Health" section and find out more about breast cancer with gentler therapies.

For men's health, the magazine reveals "Boys Don't Cry: Anxiety Denial."

Get a quick overview of "Alternative Healing and What Really Works" from the "Mind and Body" segment back to back with "The Clutter-Stress Syndrome" and how to avoid and arrest it. For medical

notes, "Healthy Options" furnishes readers with details on "Mitral Valve Prolapse (MVP)"—the common but little known heart problem.

Another equally valuable article under "Vital Finds" is the topic "Are

You Afraid of the Dark?" Light pollution may be causing unintended harm, both to ourselves and in the animal kingdom.

Last but not the least for healthy habits are "Three Sexy Reasons to Quit Smoking." While not all studies agree, there is considerable evidence that smokers have a higher percentage of sperm with abnormal morphology or shape. This may be related to a greater incidence of miscarriage and congenital malformations or birth defects.

Healthy Options News Digest is available at its store branches located at: 1/L of Shangri-La Plaza Mall Mandaluyong; Rustan's Supermarket Makati; 2/L of Festival Supermall Filinvest, Alabang; ground level of Ayala Center, Cebu; lower ground floor of SM City North Edsa; 2/L of SM City Manila; Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati; 2/L of SM Megamall B Mandaluyong, SM City Pampanga, SM City and SM Bicutan.

Skin care isn't just for the rich

WHEN the word dermatologist is mentioned, people usually think of a physician catering only to the rich, therefore expensive and not for ordinary folks who also have to contend with skin problems like acne, eczema, boils or rashes.

"This is a misconception that has to be corrected. Most often than not, dermatologists deal with cases that are not cosmetically-related but need the immediate attention of properly trained medical personnel," said Dr. Patricia Astorga-Chavez, head of the newly opened Dermatology Unit of the Dermatology Center of St. Luke's Medical Center. The physician, who trained with Dr.

Bernard Ackerman of the Ackerman Academy of Dermatology, New York, joins three other American-trained dermatologists in running the unit intending to provide a team approach in analyzing skin samples, especially from puzzling cases, submitted for interpretation.

High quality processing is assured and results guaranteed to be obtained in 3-5 days from the time the specimen is received at the Dermatology Center. Those in the provinces who need the results of analysis immediately, could get them through e-mail or fax.

The Dermatology unit normally

receives specimens of skin tumors, rare diseases, or skin disorders that do not respond to conventional medication.

Problematic cases are specimens obtained from a patient who has self-medicated for sometime as the cell composition and appearance could have changed by the time biopsy is performed. Most skin diseases in children are easier to detect since parents immediately refer kids to physicians.

Eight out of ten adult patients the unit attends to have done self-medication, wasting precious time and letting the disease progress before consulting a physician.

Moles or so-called beauty marks, for instance, are tumors that can be benign or malignant. Chavez pointed out that usually, Filipinos' *nunal* are not malignant. Unlike foreigners who like to have them taken out, Filipinos keep their moles, sometimes believing they are lucky charms.

A change in color, size or texture and occasional pain should, however, be taken as reasons to see a doctor immediately to prevent the mole from becoming cancerous.

The skin is the biggest organ of the body and is susceptible to various injuries like bruises, wounds and boils. In

kids, it is better to keep wounds uncovered so they would heal faster. They should, however, be washed often and an antiseptic applied afterwards.

Skin diseases resulting from a change of weather, like psoriasis (scaling of the skin) and urticaria (formation of hives as a reaction to certain stimuli), should be immediately referred to a dermatologist for proper care. But the most basic way to keep the skin healthy is to practice total hygiene. Moreover, proper skin care does not have to be expensive. Ordinary water and a mild soap will do the job quite well. For information call St. Luke's Dermatology Center at 7230101 local 5208.

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totally free.



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EQUAL

All the sweetness minus the calories.

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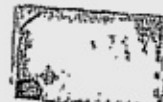
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implying that... the world's best coffee
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You're a click closer
to a delicious and
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2. COFFEE HELPS BURN CALORIES! ... may even help hasten you
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... may help raise your metabolism so that you actually bur
... small ...

... are the things that get added:
... ie cream and the sugar. In a café mocha, there
... ated concoctions ... other places even have
... drinks. Here are some links so you can connect ... coffee

FIRST, DO NOT USE SUGAR.

... e honey because it's just sugar ... another form. ... true coffee enthusia
... ffee black, savoring each and every sip for its character. Seattle's Best
... you a full-bodied experience with hints of a rich, cocoa-like flavor. Or
... elf in the perfect balance of roast & flavor with their Portside Blend
... aroma in an ultra-smooth cup

... with a sweet tooth, you can instead use Equal. One Equal Packet tablet
... and ... equivalent to one teaspoon of sugar which has 16 calories.

... ways: move Equal sachets around. A lot. If people prefer to use
... cause it tastes just as good without all the calories. But anyone committed
... d anyway ... be prepared anywhere he goes. Try telling the new Equal
... and funky so it's easy to bring (... and nice to show off, too!

SECOND, CHOOSE WHAT YOU ADD TO YOUR COFFEE.

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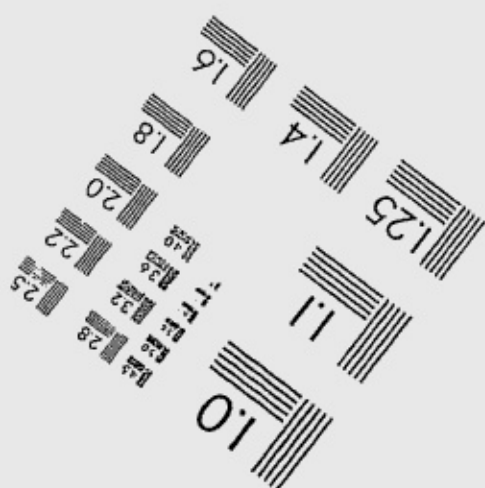
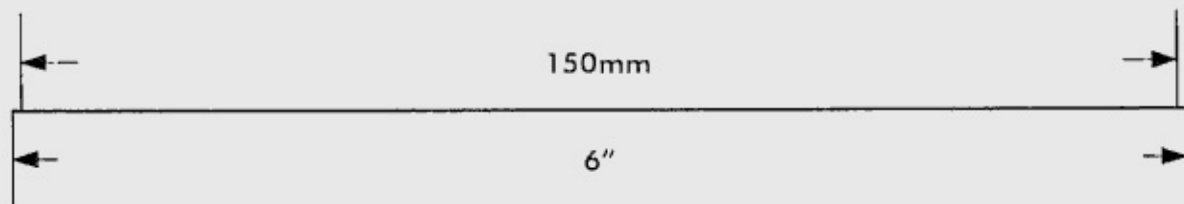
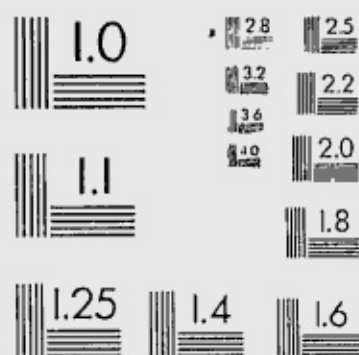
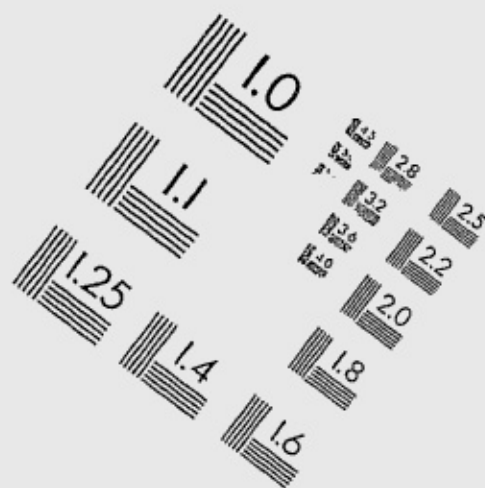
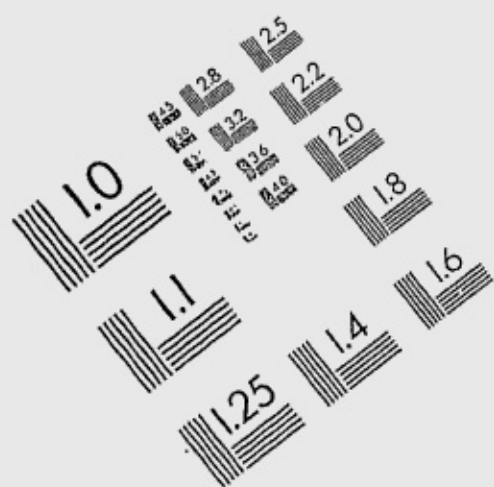
THIRD, WATCH YOUR PASTRY AS WELL AS YOUR COFFEE.

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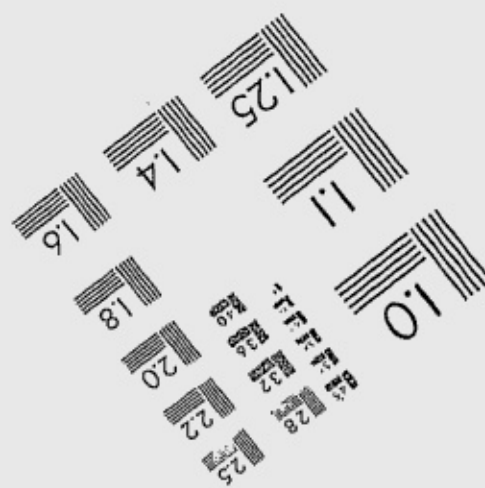
... here y ... it If you want to have
... yourself a delicious cup of coffee, go ahead
... to indulge. Just make sure you choose
... your mix well. And make sure you're ready
... to keep your coffee low calorie by bringing
... and your own Equal Pocket!

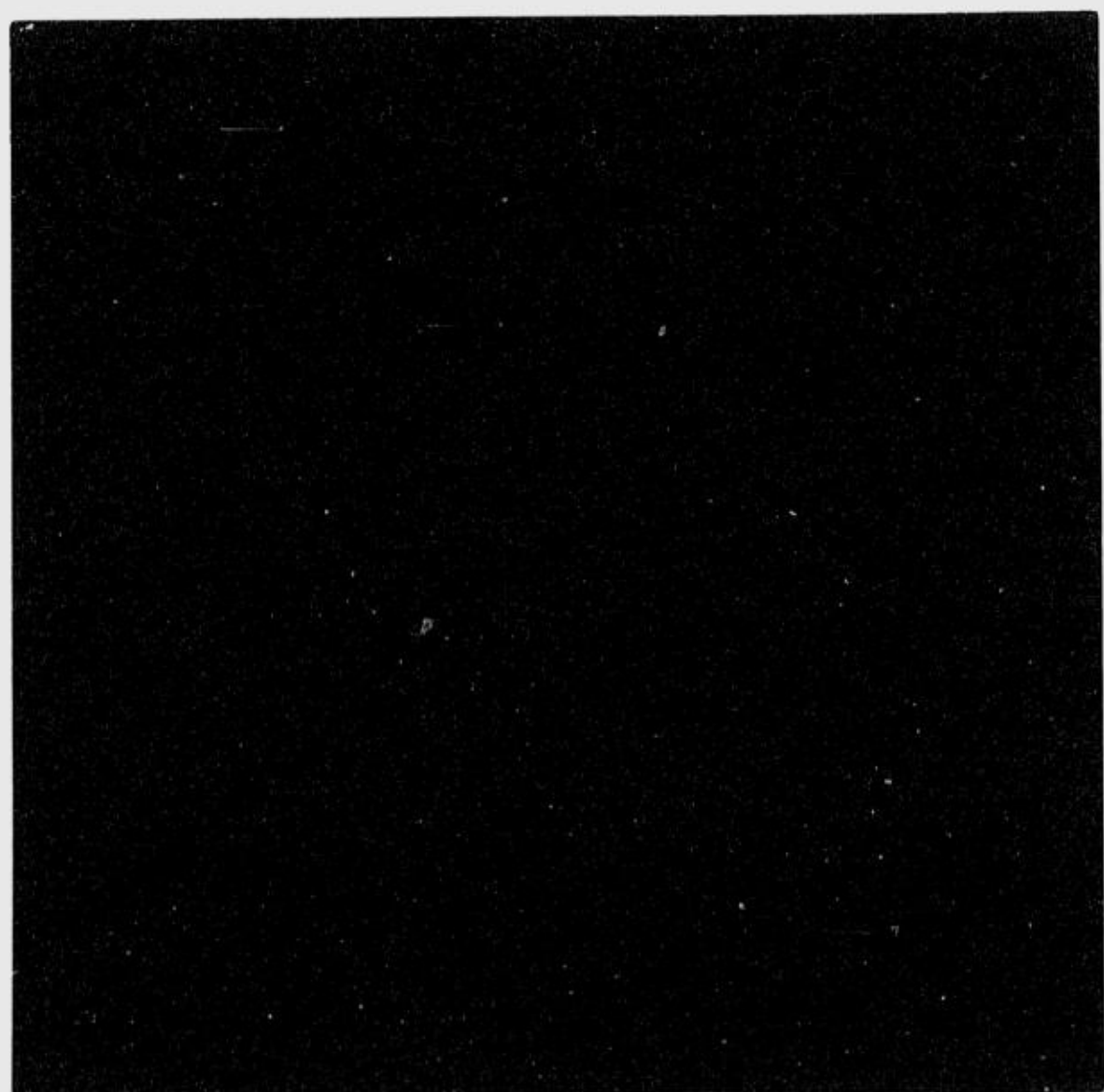


IMAGE EVALUATION
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